JOHN BULL

Vol. XIV. No. 356. SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1913. ONE PENNY

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

021194

For meaning of this No. see Page ii. of Cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

BULLETS!
BULLETS!

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INCREASED
TO
£450
THIS WEEK

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4 ft. 6 in. Oak Sideboard, £3 12s. 6d.; 6 Dining Chairs and 2 Carving Chairs to match, £4 15s.; Dining Table, 38s. 6d. 12 Overmantels at 17s. 6d.; Large Size well-sprung Chesterfield and 2 Lounge Easies, £7 15s.; 20 Queen Anne Design Dining Room Chairs, Leather Seats, 24s. 6d. each; Massive Elizabethan Design Sideboard, 6 Chairs, and 2 Massive Carving Chairs to match, Heavily Carved Dining Table to match, will accept £17 10s. the suite; 10 ft. Dining Table, 18s. 6d.; Handsome Queen Anne Design Sideboard, £7 15s.

THE BEDROOM FURNITURE comprises 28 Complete Bedrooms.

5 Oak Bedroom Suites with full Chest of Drawers to Dressing Chest, £4 10s. 10 Oak Bedsteads at 14s. 6d.; 3 Large Size Walnut Bedroom Suites, £6 15s. 3 Large Size Bedsteads with Sanitary Woven Wire Spring Overlay, Bolster and 2 Pillows, £2 12s. 6d. complete; 4 Handsome Sheraton Design Bedroom Suites, £7 15s.; Pair of Twin Bedsteads to Match, 63s.; Large Double Oval Door Bedroom Suite, Sheraton Design, £15 15s.; Reflex Mirrors to Dressing-table. Full-size Bedstead to match, £2 15s.; a very fine Gent's Wardrobe, £6 15s.; Handsome Walnut Dressing Chest and Washstand, £4 10s.; Handsome 6 ft. Louis XV. Bedroom Suite, most exquisite Design, £28; Old Dutch Wardrobe, no reasonable offer refused. 7 ft. Mahogany Wardrobe, fitted two-thirds hanging, one-third drawers and trays, 12 gns.; 3 Large-size Oak Bedroom Suites, £8 15s. Several Chests of Drawers, 18s. 6d.; 6 ft. Inlaid Sheraton design Bedroom Suite, an absolute bargain, 25 gns.; 3 Exquisite Design Inlaid Bedroom Suites, with shaving mirror to washstand, £11; 5 White Enamel Bedroom Suites, £6 10s.; Bedstead to match, 30s.

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What is your Number?

Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week FIFTY of such numbers will be drawn and PUBLISHED IN THE FOLLOWING ISSUE.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL *of specified date*, bearing any of such numbers, we will, upon production within seven days of publication (a reasonable extension will be allowed to foreign and Colonial claimants) of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of TWO GUINEAS in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation. Before the money is paid we require a full report of all the work done.

The following claims have been received in respect of our issues of March 1st and 8th:—

J. FRAME, 64, Sheffield Road, Hoyland Common, nr. Barnsley. March 1st. No. 556,597.

A. W. CHRISTOPHER, 3, Priory Street, Risca, Mon. March 1st. No. 757,786.

H. WEBSTER, 13, Trentham Avenue, Dewsbury Road, Leeds. March 1st. No. 220,194.

F. DITTMER, 7, Rice Terrace, Cavendish Road, Montague Rd., Edmonton. March 1st. No. 502,565.

ED. DAVIES, 30, Tavistock Street, Liverpool. March 1st. No. 322,28[illegible].

H. TOOGOOD, 4, Theresa Street, Dawdon Colliery, Seaham Harbour, Co. Durham. March 1st. No. 672,678.

WM. H. TATTON, 31, Cemetery Road, Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. March 8th. No. 938,661.

A. H. BEETON, "Talgarth," Hundleby, Spilsby, Lincs. March 8th. No. 693,129.

ROBERT HUNT, 9, Goodier Street, off Fylde Road, Preston, Lancashire. March 8th. No. 325,487.

C. CUTHBERT, 25, St. Philips Road, N.E. March 8th. No. 473,86[illegible].

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of March 22nd:—

651	146831	358211	518321	773295
4892	193785	379742	524690	793312
11142	200540	394563	532362	834802
19561	218712	419514	549799	855739
22330	231990	453819	554310	883815
28743	265414	482830	606327	925593
51449	289110	475658	644581	976937
70931	302117	483770	683972	992338
110403	317561	491810	720834	A 1432
124615	329162	509102	758276	A 55035

The **A** prefixed to the drawn numbers indicates it is plus a million.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE (PUBLISHED APRIL 2ND).

SEE PAGE 465.

FOOTBALL COMPETITION. NO. 4.

SEE PAGE 465.

"JOHN BULL" Entrance Form.

Matches Played Saturday, April 12th.

Cross out—in ink—what you think will be the losing club.
For a draw do not cross out either club.

Bolton W.	**v.**	**Aston Villa**
Bradford City	**v.**	**Blackburn R.**
Chelsea	**v.**	**Tottenham H.**
Liverpool	**v.**	**Sunderland**
Manchester C.	**v.**	**Sheffield Wednesday**
Oldham	**v.**	**Middlesbro'**
Sheffield Un.	**v.**	**Manchester Un.**
Woolwich A.	**v.**	**Derby County**
W. Bromwich	**v.**	**Everton**
Bristol City	**v.**	**Leeds City**
Clapton O.	**v.**	**Fulham**
Glossop	**v.**	**Barnsley**
Hull City	**v.**	**Bradford**
Stockport C.	**v.**	**Blackpool**
Merthyr	**v.**	**Northampton**
Watford	**v.**	**Q. P. Rangers**
Brighton	**v.**	**Millwall**
Exeter	**v.**	**Swindon**
Southampton	**v.**	**Reading**
Portsmouth	**v.**	**Stoke**

I enter JOHN BULL Football Competition in accordance with the rules announced on this page and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed.....

Address .....

.....

Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

RULES

WHICH SHOULD BE READ CAREFULLY.

1. On the Entrance Form attached cross out in ink, by running a pen through the names, the teams you think will lose. If you predict a DRAW do not cross out either team.

2. Having done this, write in ink (typewriting or pencilling will not do) your name and address in the space provided, cut out the Entrance Form, and address it to "JOHN BULL," 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C., mark envelope, in top left-hand corner, Football Competition No. 4, so as to reach us not later than first post Friday, April 11th, but please send early to facilitate the work of examination.

3. The First Prize of £7 a week for Life will be awarded to the competitor whose Entry Form contains the correct results, as published in the "Sporting Life," of all the matches given, played to a finish on April 12th. In the event of no coupon received giving the whole of the correct results, a cash prize of £750 will be awarded to the competitor whose coupon shows the most correct results short of the full number. In addition, the sum of £400 in cash will be paid to the sender of the entrance form containing the next highest number of correct forecasts. £100 in cash will also be awarded to the lady whose coupon gives more correct forecasts than that of any other lady competitor. Thus, if the Pension Prize of £7 a week for life be not won, we shall still award the £750, the £400 and the £100,—so that the huge sum of £1,250 must be won.

4. No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any effort, and no correspondence will be entered into, neither will interviews be granted. But the utmost care will be taken of all coupons received. Individual competitors may send in as many entries as they wish, and any number of entries may be enclosed in the same envelope. Friends may send their entries together in one envelope.

5. The Editor's published decision on all matters relating to this competition is final and legally binding, and competitors may enter only on this understanding.

6. Any effort on which any alteration of any description has been made will be disqualified. Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

7. In the event of a tie or ties in this competition the Pension Prize of £7 a week for Life, the Second Prize of £750 cash, as well as the £400 cash prize, and the special £100 prize will be equally divided.

8. No coupon bearing a Scottish address can be

THE CLOSING DATE IS FRIDAY, APRI

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XIV. No. 356. Week ending Saturday, March 29th, 1913. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters. All **FINANCIAL, INSURANCE** *and* **SPORTING** *enquiries should be addressed to the* **CITY OFFICES, 52, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.** *All other communications should be addressed to* **93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.**

The John Bull League.

PORTSMOUTH AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

THE PRESIDENT,

HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

WILL ADDRESS A GREAT PUBLIC MEETING

AT THE TOWN HALL, PORTSMOUTH, ON FRIDAY, 28th MARCH, 1913.

Doors open at 7 p.m. ORGAN RECITAL AND VOCAL ENTERTAINMENT at 7.15 p.m. **ADMISSION** (by ticket) **FREE.** Reserved Seats, ONE SHILLING. Tickets may be obtained from Messrs. E. ROOMS, 405, Commercial Road; M. BURGHARD, The Admiralty Tavern, Landport; M. MANSBRIDGE, 330, Fratton Road; P. GORDON, The New Inn, Drayton Cosham; J. J. McFARLANE, "Allendale," St. Pyren's Avenue, Capner; CAPTAIN MALPAS, 49, Kimberley Road, Southsea; CAPTAIN BELL, 39, Campbell Road, Southsea; or from the GENERAL SECRETARY, Central Hotel, Commercial Road, Portsmouth.

£10 REWARD.

Wanted, the Copy of "John Bull" for MARCH 22nd, 1913, bearing on its Cover the Number 944,472.

Apply THE MANAGER, "JOHN BULL," 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

ANOTHER £10 PAID.

The £10 offered for the copy of our issue of March 8th numbered 000,136 has gone to—

Mr. A. J. STEVENS,
36, New Broad Street, E.C.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

At Last!

The circulation of JOHN BULL, which has been bounding up at a rare rate for months past, now exceeds by several thousands the stupendous figure of *one million copies* a week.

The Dying Game.

The Party system is in its death throes. No one any longer has a good word to say for it. The House of Commons is half empty, and half asleep; scarcely any of the papers report its proceedings, and nobody reads them; whilst, as at Kendal, the authority of the Caucus is no longer respected. We must hurry up with our Business candidates.

Object Lessons.

We have had several illuminating lessons lately. Mr. Bonar Law says it is "no use discussing anything"; Lord Charles Beresford protests against members calling each other traitors and renegades, and then dining together; Sir Frederick Banbury moves an amendment against the curtailment of discussion in Supply, in identical terms with those employed a few years ago, in identical circumstances, by Mr. Redmond—and every Irish member votes against him; Lord Robert Cecil complains of the lack of interest and respect on the part of the public towards Parliament—and Mr. Asquith, admitting that there is a growing tendency for members to desert the House and rush in merely for divisions—"to satisfy the exactions of their constituents"—proposes a Select Committee to consider what can be done! Meanwhile, we are to have still another Education Bill, but it is "not to be pressed beyond Second Reading"—and then we are to devote attention to "the care of the feeble-minded." Ye Gods!—and this is how we are preparing to fight Germany!

Kettle and Pot Politics.

The fact is, the public realises that the whole Party game is now one of Pot *v.* Kettle. We do not hesitate to say that the "debate on the Address" would have been a disgrace to any Parliamentary Debating Society. One journal describes the House as meeting "tired"—we prefer the word "comatose." And our sympathy goes out to poor Mr. Lowther, the Speaker. We wouldn't take on his job at double the salary.

Mr. McKenna's Dilemma.

We must be fair—even to Mr. McKenna. And we are not without sympathy for him in the problem of the Hunger Strikers. Fanaticism is one of the things with which it is nearly impossible for any Government to deal. It is like what Dizzy called "the machinations of stupidity"—you never know when, where or how it will manifest itself. And, on the whole, we are inclined to think that the Ticket-o'-Leave is the best solution of the difficulty—Ticket-o'-Leave-your-home-and-come-back-as-soon-as-you-are-well!

The Price of Power.

Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown and now, in the zenith of his glory, the King of Greece has been added to the list of martyrs in the cause of Civilised Government. That is what it means, and every head of every State—and, indeed, every leader of men, everywhere—must be prepared to face the peril of assassination at the hand of the madman run amok. We are not much beyond middle age, and yet we recall, in our own time, the murder of one French and two American Presidents, of two beautiful and brilliant queens, and a Czar and a Shah—and four Kings. We are not so *very* civilised and enlightened, are we?

Enter Our New Football Competition NOW. Mammoth Prizes. Don't Delay!

Fiscal Fuddle.

The Unionist leaders are still at sixes and sevens over the Tariff question, and it is amusing to notice how troubled they appear to be between "the principles of Tariff Reform" and "the interests of the Unionist Party." Dear old Henry Chaplin quite fails to see the drift of the present position, and sighs audibly for the days when a tax on corn meant Protection, and Protection meant a tax on corn, while Mr. Austen Chamberlain continues to evince an intensity of filial regard which is quite refreshing in these decadent days. Mr. Bonar Law is apparently persuaded that he has made a somewhat disastrous mess of the whole thing, and for the moment, at any rate, he preserves a safe silence; while Mr. F. E. Smith is busy working off the arrears of his legal practice. It is all very diverting to the onlookers, and extremely helpful to the Government. Perhaps, some day, somebody may realise that there is a big body of opinion in the country that favours a Business revision of the Tariff, without caring a rap about the interests of the Unionist or any other Party.

A Business Reform.

Mr. Staveley-Hill is shortly to introduce a Merchandise Marks Bill into the House of Commons. Should it become law, the time-honoured legend, "Made in Germany," will be seen no more. All goods not of British manufacture will be marked "Not British," while those of Colonial make will be stamped "British Empire Made." We wish Mr. Hill every success in his efforts. With some such system in general vogue there would no longer be any excuse for the indiscriminate way in which nine persons out of ten carry out their purchases of manufactured articles. The evil of unemployment among British workers would be considerably mitigated if only people would exercise a little patriotism and national spirit in the course of their shopping expeditions.

Naval News.

A recent announcement in the *Globe*: "The battleship *Temeraire* is being fitted at Devonport dockyard with an enlarged mast-head control platform to accommodate larger and up-to-date range-finding instruments and wider bilge keels." Hereby and at once we demand to know what the bilge-keel is doing on the mast-head? Failing a satisfactory answer we shall immediately inform Mr. Churchill. The things they do in the British Navy nowadays are enough to startle the Nelson monument. They'll be shoving the coal bunkers into the chart-room next.

The Wily Turk.

Few people seem to understand why the Turks held out so long about Adrianople. As a matter of fact, that was a part of their cunning. What they are really anxious about is the retention of the islands which command their Asiatic coast. They have kept very quiet about this. The intention is, when at last they do surrender Adrianople, to represent it as the supreme sacrifice and refuse to yield another inch.

Another Walk Over.

The next war will undoubtedly be between Bulgaria on the one side and Greece and Servia on the other. There has already been some desultory fighting, and King Ferdinand's allies are just as bitter against him as they ever were against the Turks. They will certainly be very foolish if they listen to any of his blandishments. It will be remembered that, just before he began hostilities, he sent the most solemn assurances to Roumania that there would be no war.

Buxton's Lament.

Mr. Sydney Buxton regrets "that under our existing Parliamentary machinery, Members of Parliament have so little time and opportunity for considering and carrying many of the measures in which they are interested." This statement was made with particular reference to social reforms and the betterment of the working classes. We share Mr. Buxton's regrets, but we do not observe that the right honourable gentleman is doing much to remedy the state of affairs of which he complains. We have been dinning different aspects of this same fact into the ears of the public for several years now, and some day we mean to smash "the existing Parliamentary machinery," or, at any rate, to have a good try. May we count on Mr. Buxton's help?—or will he plead a prior engagement?

An Honest Man—and Others.

Lord Charles Beresford is one of those bluff, honest fellows to whom hypocrisy of any sort is not so much a crime as a mystery; and it is refreshing to notice his outspoken criticism of the insincerities of Party politics. "If you don't mean what you say, don't say it," says the gallant admiral with unaffected simplicity which would probably drive Mr. Balfour to despair. The noble lord looks upon politics as a serious business, and he certainly believes in fighting with the gloves off. "Let it be understood that we mean it," he says, "when we say that the Government are traitors, that they have jerrymandered the Crown and smashed the Constitution." Lord Charles should remember, however, that whatever enormities the Government have committed, they may plead that they have acted under duress. We believe this is a sound legal defence. The noble lord should talk it over with "F. E."

Comparisons.

Two cases: Suffragette burns down a tea pavilion at Kew; damage done £1,000, not including cost of building or loss to employees; sentence, 18 months Second Division. Two labourers set fire to a stack of wheat and a stack of straw; damage £221; sentence seven years' and five years' Penal Servitude respectively. However, they have only to hunger-strike and the Home Secretary will, of course, loose them upon an astonished world.

Miss Wharry.

In the charge sheet, Miss Olive Wharry, the suffragette recently imprisoned for setting fire to the Kew Pavilion, was described as an art student. Is it correct that she is, in fact, the only child of opulent parents and inherited £90,000 in her own right from her mother on coming of age? And is it a fact that her father, described in the papers as a country doctor, occupies a mansion at Cambridge Gate in Regent's Park, and has a country residence in addition? And if the answer is in the affirmative, does it account for the anxiety of Miss Wharry to disguise her identity?

Morals of Canadian Girls.

Dr. Sparrow, the Canadian gentleman who recently attacked, without the slightest justification, the morals of English girls in Canada, will be interested to hear something that is the truth about Canadian girls. This is how an article in a Winnipeg newspaper commences: "Thirty-one illegitimate children, one for each day in the month, were registerd in Winnipeg in January. As the total of births for the month was 372, the proportion of illegitimates figures out at 8½ per cent." In one case the mother was only 13 years old. We leave the appropriate comment to those most concerned by the revelation.

Our World's Record Offer—£7 a Week for Life, and £1,250 cash.

Jarndyce Up to Date.

The Marconi Company is, of course, a purely business concern, and its directors are not "out for their health," but this is no reason why their legitimate operations should be hampered at every turn by the dilatory tactics of the Post Office. It appears that the Company are now carrying out works in North Wales with a view to the construction there of a Transatlantic wireless station. Captain Norton, for the Postmaster-General, now declares that the necessary licence for the establishment of such a station will be withheld until the final report has been received from the Select Committee on the contract for the Imperial wireless chain. At the present pace of this precious committee, Mr. Samuel might as well postpone the issue of the licence till the Greek Calends. It is a scandalous thing that public convenience and commercial enterprise should be alike at the mercy of a routine-ridden Government department. The procedure of modern Select Committees would have furnished Dickens with excellent material for another novel. Jarndyce *v.* Jarndyce isn't in it. The Marconi Committee are obsessed with trivial personalities. We have watched its wearisome proceedings from the commencement and, like little Miss Flyte, we "expect a judgment—on the Day of Judgment."

Pugnacious Plutocrats.

Baulked of their legitimate prey, the Tory landlord, two of the Radical multi-millionaires have been having a "scrap" at each other in the Law Courts. It would seem that the predatory instinct is very strongly developed in these gentlemen, unless the bout was a "friendly" one, and merely to pass the time. We notice that "soft soap" played a prominent part in the altercation, and it looks as though there will soon be a Radical monopoly of this useful product. Judgment has been reserved, and we can, therefore, say no more, except to express the hope that the parties have not squandered in litigation money which should have been ear-marked for the Party war-chest. Somebody should have held a "watching brief" for the Chief Government Whip.

If You See It . . . .

Mr. Walter Long is apparently getting jumpy. He wants to know whether the Liberals would "dare to use British bayonets and British rifles on men whose only offence was that they claimed the same rights and privileges as Englishmen." We trust Mr. Walter Long does not lie awake at nights contemplating this awful possibility. If he does, we would respectfully refer him to our earlier issues. The Home Rule Bill will have served its purpose by the end of the present Parliament. *The Constitution which it sets up for Ireland will never be put into operation.*

Precept and Practice.

We need scarcely remind our readers that the *Star* and the *Daily News and Leader* are intimately associated. Nor need we recall the fact that the *Daily News and Leader* has been persistently attacking the very innocent recreation supplied by our Football Competitions. So much by way of preface. What we started out to say was that our attention has been drawn to an advertisement in the *Star*, headed "£5 per week for Life for Correct Football Results," of a weekly paper professing to give the most detailed reports—and to add that we hope the advertisement was not a "keyed" one. But that is a little dig at our scintillating *confrère* which only those who were present in a recent case before Mr. Justice Horridge can appreciate.

A Candid Word to Canada.

The recent pother in the Canadian Parliament over Canada's contribution to the Imperial Navy was very illuminating. The Borden plan has never been really popular with the bulk of Canadians. The ideal of the average Canadian is that of a Dominion Fleet for purely Colonial purposes, and his Imperial sentiments scarcely rise to the conception of a costly contribution for the building of warships which will merge in the Imperial Navy. The debates on the subject were hot and furious, and great excitement, not unmingled with consternation, was caused by Mr. Borden's eleventh hour disclosure of Mr. Churchill's Memorandum. It appears that the First Lord intimated pretty plainly that, in the opinion of the Admiralty, Canadian shipyards are not suitably equipped for the building of warships. This is probably true, and in any case we can take no risks. We hope, too, that Mr. Churchill indulged in some plain speaking as to the necessity of full Imperial control over ships contributed by the Dominion. We regret that he ever conceded the right of withdrawal at the discretion of the Dominion Government. If warships are to be for Imperial purposes they must be under Imperial control. There has been a great deal of loose talk on this matter, and while we do not undervalue sentiment, we believe in plain speech. Sentiment will not fight the Empire's battles.

Saucy Sauer.

Mr. Sauer, who is Minister of Justice for Cape Colony, has recently been criticising the naval policy of Great Britain. We have no wish to appear disrespectful to a Colonial Minister, but we would politely suggest that this gentleman would have been much more usefully and fittingly employed in attending to the duties of his office. There are some things which we in the Old Country are determined to manage in our own way, and naval defence is one of them. We have never demanded a Colonial contribution to Imperial Defence. Mr. Sauer insists that any such contribution must be spontaneous. So be it, but let him leave the rest to us.

Manchester Market Stalls.

Though when a stall in the Manchester Markets is announced to let the Markets Committee stipulate that canvassing will disqualify applicants, we hear that a great deal of canvassing does take place; that, in fact, it is frequently known several days before the Committee meet that the stall has been promised to some person or other by members of the Committee. This, of course, is unfair. There ought to be a fair field and no favour. As there is so much competition and heart-burning about these vacant stalls, why do not the Committee let them to the applicant who offers the best rent?

Mr. Runciman.

The Minister of British Agriculture, Mr. Runciman, to wit, has evidently been making the most conscientious endeavours to learn his job since his appointment. For instance, during the Parliamentary vacation one of the newspapers announced that whilst visiting Amsterdam he "inspected Messrs. Aascher's diamond establishment." Our illustrious friend was evidently anxious to ascertain how diamonds can be planted in England as a root crop profitable to the British farmer.

Sweet Mary.

What do you think of her now? We refer to *Mary Bull.* Isn't she just lovely? And only a penny!

"Bullets"—the Pastime Competition. Prizes value £1,770 weekly.

A Matron's Methods.

Having regard to some of the answers given by the matron, Miss A. M. Armstrong, to questions put to her in a recent case, the Committee (if any) of the Moseley Hall Convalescent Hospital, Birmingham, will probably consider it desirable to institute an inquiry into the management of the institution. This lady, it seems, is in the habit, at her own discretion, of cutting up, or allowing the maids to cut up, into dusters new articles of clothing sent by the public for use of the patients. "Witness had also given new woollen petticoats to be used as dummy cloths. These things were supplied by the generosity of the public and it rested with her to decide which were suitable for the children and which were not. . . . She had a great many surplus articles for a long time, and thought it better to use them to save expense." These are no doubt startling revelations to the generous public aforesaid. Failing an Inquiry they will be well advised to ask the matron whether she has sufficient dusters and dummy cloths on hand before sending further garments for the children.

A Dangerous Criminal.

A woman of seventy-two was recently placed in the dock at the West Ham Police Court. It wasn't drink, and it wasn't window breaking. She wasn't a sufiragette, or a passive resister. She had neither killed, nor wounded, forged, nor robbed. What then had brought her so low? We scarce dare print it. The abandoned creature, lost to all sense of decency, had had the brazen-faced effrontery to publicly shake a mat in the streets of West Ham at 10.55 a.m., in the searching light of day. Imagination boggles with horror at the thought. With what a high sense of moral duty the sturdy constables of West Ham must have dragged her to the Court, there to receive condign punishment for her horrible act. And then at last when justice was about to be vindicated, the magistrate dismissed the case. Such is the encouragement which virtuous and high-minded policemen receive at the hands of men who are supposed to be learned in the law. We trust that we may not hear that this degraded female has lapsed again into evil courses.

Which Insurance Company?

It is rather a pity the jury and the *Leicester Daily Post* should have thought it necessary to be so reticent as to the name of the insurance company which, according to the evidence of the widow at the inquest, stopped a certain compensation allowance to which her husband, Robert Perkins, was entitled, and compelled him to accept £10 in full settlement of his claim, "take it or leave it." The man, unable to work, became depressed at the prospects before him and his wife, and committed suicide by jumping out of his bedroom window. "Some insurance companies," said the jury in their rider, "really try to defraud people who have not got enough money to obtain legal advice," after the Coroner had told the widow that if her husband was permanently incapacitated from work he was entitled to about £340. What company did the jury indicate?

Dr. Queerman, Dulwich.

Here is a circular issued by Dr. Muller, of Hillside, Stonebridge Park, to his panel patients: "Hours of Consultation . . . Tuesday and Friday evenings and Sundays excepted unless *really* urgent. Patients are kindly requested NOT to come for consultation in their working clothes." It is rumoured in the district that the doctor's patients are now clamouring at the gates of Mr. Lloyd George for new suits.

"For Peace and Quietness."

Perhaps the Bishop of Chichester will be able to throw a little light on the strange case of the Rev. John Venables, Vicar of Yapton, and his wife. Mrs. Venables had taken out a summons at Arundel Police Court against her rev. husband, alleging persistent cruelty and neglect to maintain her and her child; but when the case was called, her solicitor told the magistrates that he had met the solicitor for Mr. Venables. As a result, an agreement had been arrived at, and he now desired on behalf of his client publicly to withdraw the charges "in order to ensure peace and quietness between the parties." That such charges should have been made and withdrawn on these conditions and in these terms gives a certain note of interrogation to the *ex parte* statement of the vicar's solicitor that there was "absolutely no foundation" for them. Though Mrs. Venables has withdrawn the charges, nothing in the report of the proceedings shows that she admits there is absolutely no foundation for them, and as "the Bishop of Chichester was present in court, and occupied a seat at the solicitor's table . . . and for a short time was in conversation with the defendant," we shall perhaps not be wrong in assuming that he intervened to prevent the rehearsal of charges which, whether true or otherwise, would have created another grave scandal in the Church.

Knock-About Officers.

The title of captain is not a very distinguished one. Indeed, most officers who forsake the Army during early middle age consider it good form to pass as plain Mister. But here are Captain Wood, son of a Field Marshal, and Captain Green, D.S.O., advertising themselves on the music-hall boards as "The Two Captains—musical and humorous entertainers." Now, with the greatest respect for the music-hall profession, we do not regard its necessary antics as quite consonant with the dignity of officers, and we venture to suggest that, if these ex-soldiers are driven to earn a living by buffoonery, it would have been more respectful to the Service had they relied on their abilities instead of on their discarded titles. Worst of all, they began their career at the Aldershot Hippodrome, offering themselves as a show in exchange for the pennies and laughter of Tommies, who would previously have regarded them with awe. This seems unfair to their brother-officers, whose orders may come to be regarded as part of a farcical "turn."

"Le Diner, est-il Pret?"

Several times in London hotels recently the answer has been "No, it not is." At the Criterion, the Cecil, the Savoy, Bayley's, and other places the joyful hour had no sooner sounded in the ears of the waiting guests than two or three gentlemen desired to see the manager on urgent business. Admitted into the gracious presence they informed him that unless and until he agreed to give them one day's holiday per week, with a sixty-five hours per week labour limit, there would be no dinner. These gentlemen represented the Amalgamated Society of Canny Cooks. At last the kitchen has learned the noble art of striking, and without a doubt they have made a great hit. There is now hope for the Amalgamated Union of Meat Slaughterers. All they have to do is to refuse to kill the fatted calf and wring the neck of the spring chicken and they will have the whole nation at their mercy.

All Mustard.

Talking of cooks, what sounds like the re-hash of an old dish is the yarn sent us by a reader who alleges that at a recent reception of Suffragettes the hostess presently inquired, "Are we all mustered?" Mrs. Pankhurst looked round, "We are," she said; and nobody contradicted.

Seen "Mary Bull" lately? Out on Friday next. Order it now.

"Ministers and Marconi."

This phrase is becoming classic. No doubt Sir Rufus Isaacs will be taunted with not having disclosed to the House of Commons a purely private, personal transaction, in no way connected with the issue in question; but we hope he will tell the House to mind its own business—a piece of advice it surely needs. But as regards Mr. Lloyd George—well, it *is* a bit awkward for the People's Tribune to explain a little deal in the sordid stock of a monopolist company. But he will manage it all right!

A Point for Pease.

James Harcourt, who was recently sentenced at the Old Bailey to twenty months' imprisonment for forging and uttering a cheque, attributed his downfall to the defects of our educational system. "I have been taught music, drawing and painting," he said, "but have never had a chance to learn a trade or profession, so that I could go to work like other people." We commend this statement to the attention of Mr. Pease.

A Tip from T.P.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor declares that "the people of England have made up their minds that nothing can prevent the triumphant march of Home Rule to victory." Really! Will he bet on it? We should enjoy a modest flutter.

The Week's Chestnut.

MODERN HUSBAND (*after dinner*): "No, thank you; please don't give my wife any coffee. It prevents her sleeping."

RHYMES OF THE TIMES.

IN THE GARDEN.

["A man may swear as much as he likes in his own garden if what he says does not reach the ears of anyone in the street."—*Tottenham Magistrate.*]

To-day so many trials beset
The British citizen,
That there are few of us but get
To swearing now and then.
With taxes ever on the rise,
And this Insurance sham,
What wonder that we lift our eyes
And sometimes mutter "D—n"?

Unrest pervades our hapless land,
For "party" rules the roast,
And when that's so, you'll understand,
Quiet doesn't stand a "ghost."
Wild Suffragettes parade the streets
And stones through windows cast,
And when we read their idiot feats,
What can we say but "B—t"?

The German fleet grows fast, we're told—
A deadly, grim menace—
And Britons, who of yore were bold,
Grow white and scared of face.
Of airship foes that fly by night
The papers daily tell—
What wonder if we, in our fright,
Ejaculate "Oh, h—l!"

With such strong grounds on which to swear,
Oh, happy is the man
Who owns a strip of garden, where
He may curse as he can.
But while my need is just as strong,
My fate is worse than that—
I dare not speak the words I long,
For I live in a flat!

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

For advertising in the "Retford, Worksop, Isle of Axholme and Gainsborough News": "BOY WANTED FOR POTTED MEAT,"

"LAYNE (Market Street)."
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For publishing the following notice: "*Wanted, smart girls to learn Packing and Sorting; good opportunity for girls. Doors open 7.30 p.m. Admission 3d. Refreshments at reasonable prices,*"

THE WATFORD OBSERVER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For including in its Cirencester Market Report: "PIGS *wholesale 16, retail 14 a shilling. No change.*"

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECHO
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising: "LIONS *4 to 5 lbs.—6½d. per lb.*," MESSRS. JOHN BULL & CO. (Butchers, 58a, West Street, Horsham),
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "Stainer's 'Crucifixion' is to be sung in Holy Trinity Church on Thursday afternoon, the 20th, at 31.15. and this should prove a CONVENIENT TIME,"

THE DORSET COUNTY CHRONICLE (Dorchester)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its account of a charge of adulteration against a Kingsland Road dairyman that "60 per cent. of water had been added," and proceeding to report the prosecution as saying that "though the adulteration was SMALL, *it was part of a deliberate plan,"*

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For referring to some "Springless Resilient Wheels" as "constructed without springs, simple, and yet most effective in their resiliency, so much so that NO PUNCTURES WHATEVER ARE REQUIRED,"

THE UNIVERSAL PATENTS BUREAU SALES JOURNAL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in the "Daily Dispatch" that: "It may not be generally known that the consumptive cow is INVARIABLY, IF NOT ALWAYS, *the most profitable of the herd,"*

MR. J. C. BRISTOW-NOBLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For publishing a photograph of a man in custody on a charge of tearing up surplices and cassocks in St. George's Church, Watford, under the title: "Scene at a LONDON *Church,"*

THE DAILY SKETCH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in an article entitled "The Luxurious Read" that: "No other time in the day has the charm of the hour when, ALL LIGHTS EXTINGUISHED, *peace reigns supreme in the house and we settle down in bed to a cosy* BOOK,"

THE STAR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED.

*We give 2s. 6d. to the sender of every "Biscuit" published. Should the same item be forwarded by several competitors, preference will be given to the one whose letter is first opened. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue. Envelopes must be marked "*BISCUIT*" and addressed to "The Biscuit Editor."*

Our First "Bullets" Prize Increased to £450 this week.

"JOHN BULL" IN PARLIAMENT.

MR. CHURCHILL'S GALLANT, BUT VAIN, ATTEMPT TO SHIELD SIR PERCY SCOTT.

As stated in our last issue, we have no desire to pursue the unhappy and disgraced Sir Percy Scott into the seclusion of private life—now that he has "retired" from the Navy. It is not our method to jump on a man when he is down, and having succeeded in removing from the Service an officer whom we have convicted of base treachery, and criminal violation of the King's Regulations, we are content, as in the case of the "Hooded M.P.," to leave an unsavoury and thankless task—and get on with something else.

But during the past week events have occurred which demand some comment on our part.

Here is an extract from the Parliamentary report of last Wednesday's proceedings in the House of Commons:

Major Archer-Shee (U., Finsbury, Central) asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether his attention had been drawn to a letter recently published, written by Vice-Admiral Sir Percy Scott, on January 13th, 1908, whilst commanding the First Cruiser Squadron under the higher command of Admiral Lord C. Beresford, in which letter Sir Percy asked the editor of a periodical to send him 200 copies and some posters; whether the issue of the paper contained an article attacking the admiral commanding the Home Fleet, and that copies of this journal and posters were sent to every officer and every ship in the Fleet; and whether, in view of the fact that a breach of discipline occurred, he would call on Vice-Admiral Sir Percy Scott for an explanation; and whether the retirement of that officer would be delayed until the matter had been investigated.

Mr. Churchill: I have seen some of the articles which have appeared in the publication known as John Bull, to which I understand the hon. member refers. As I stated on January 16th, it would not be in the interests of the naval service to revive the controversy of five years ago. I have no intention of doing so. I do not propose to institute any inquiry, or to take any action to ascertain the accuracy or the merits of the articles.

Major Archer-Shee: Is it not a fact that if this matter had been published at the time this officer would have been court-martialled for an act of treachery and insubordination? I am prepared to stand by the authenticity of this accusation outside the House as well as inside it.

Mr. Churchill: The hon. gentleman is certainly prepared to use very harsh language against persons who cannot defend themselves, but that fact does not in any way induce me to attempt to answer hypothetical questions.

Major Archer-Shee: May I ask if the statement that I am prepared to make outside as well as inside the House does not defend me against the charge of attacking an officer in his absence?

The Speaker: We can all form our own opinions.

A Personal Explanation.

Later in the sitting, at the close of questions, Lord C. Beresford said: Since my name has been mentioned in a question, I desire to make a personal explanation. I had nothing to do with that question appearing on the paper, and I have had no communication of any sort with Major Archer-Shee.

Some time ago the editor of John Bull handed me the original letter referred to by Major Archer-Shee. I returned it with the following reply:—

> Dear Mr. Bottomley,—I am returning you herewith the letter which you were good enough to hand me to examine. I have read it with profound regret, for reasons which must be sufficiently obvious.
>
> You will, of course, not expect me to take any action myself in the matter. I am content to leave my honour as a gentleman and my reputation as a seaman in the keeping of my brother officers and those who have served with me.

That was my attitude then, and it has remained my attitude ever since.

Mr. Churchill's Chivalry.

We have already had occasion to acknowledge the chivalry of Mr. Churchill towards this discredited officer; but surely he exceeded the bounds of individual and official loyalty in the attitude indicated by his answers. After all, there is something more than the purely personal aspect of the matter to be considered. Unfortunately it is true that as between Sir Percy Scott and his "higher Command," Lord Charles Beresford, extremely strained relations existed after the famous "signalling incident," but we have yet to learn that Lord Charles ever acted in any way inconsistent with the time-honoured code of an Officer and a Gentleman. On the other hand, our charge against Sir Percy Scott—and he has not dared to challenge it—was, and is, that whilst in active command under Lord Charles he conspired and plotted and planned to undermine the Admiral's authority and to spread insubordination and chaos in the ranks of the Navy; and in support of that charge we have produced the most damning evidence in his own handwriting. And inasmuch as we should be liable to a criminal prosecution if we were not in a position to justify our charges, and inasmuch, further, as we have week after week, challenged Sir Percy Scott to take action against us, it was certainly a little unkind of Mr. Churchill to taunt Major Archer-Shee with "attacking persons who cannot defend themselves."

Lack of Candour.

Now there can be no doubt whatever that had we produced this evidence a year or two ago, Sir Percy would have been court-martialled, and heavily punished—just as there can be no doubt that its publication, even at this juncture, has been the immediate cause of his "retirement." We still have in our minds the case of Sir Francis Bridgeman—whose "ill-health" developed at such an alarming rate in response to Mr. Churchill's suggestion; and there is no question that Sir Percy's sudden decision to retire "immediately" was prompted by something more than a purely personal inspiration. In a word, Sir Percy Scott has been relieved of his commission owing to his inability to repudiate our grave accusations. And there we leave him.

Lord Charles Beresford's Attitude.

One word on the position of Lord Charles Beresford in the matter. It was at the suggestion of a fellow member of the House—a very distinguished member by the way—whilst we sat there, that we placed Lord Charles in possession of some of the documents in our possession, and we had several conversations with him in regard to them. The attitude which he adopted throughout was that which is reflected in the letter he read to the House, and but for that attitude we should have published our articles long ago. It was only on reading the amazing announcement that Sir Percy Scott had been included in the New Year's Honours List that we determined to unmask him. We have only to add that we had nothing whatever to do with the placing of Major Archer-Shee's question on the Order Paper, and had no knowledge of it till we saw it in the newspapers.

On Friday we happen to be at the Portsmouth Town Hall, in connection with a John Bull League meeting, and we may then, in fairness to Lord Charles, have something more to say upon his position with regard to the whole matter.

A PLEA FOR THE PERISHING PORTER.

FAT JOBS FOR LABOUR BUREAUX SUPERFLUITIES.

Proceeding to the Continent for a few days Easter rest we taxied to Charing Cross, and before we had time to alight from our conveyance a poor, half-starved creature, down at heel, and clad in rags which would have disgraced a scarecrow, pounced upon our luggage. Thinking he was some loafer who was about to rob us, we told him, sternly, to leave the handling of our belongings to one of the Company's servants. To our amazement, he informed us that he was one of a new staff of porters, and in proof proudly showed us a badge strapped on his arm. Even then we had our doubts; so giving him a tip we turned to a uniformed man and requested him to see our luggage labelled. It was not so much that we doubted the poor scarecrow's honesty, as from a desire to gain some information about the new class. In the limited time at our disposal we learnt that the Traffic Manager had just supplemented the regular staff of outside porters with an additional forty men procured from the Labour Exchange. "In anticipation of the heavy Easter traffic?" we suggested. "Well, I dunno," said the old hand, with a proud confidence which his physical appearance did not seem to justify; "considering there are ninety of us here, we could have managed it all right. I can't tell what their little game is—without the Company wants some of us old 'ands to 'op over 'Ungerford Bridge. Fact of the matter is, a lot ov us 'ave lived too long. Abaht fifty ov us'll get the Old Age Pension in another five years, and it's breaking some of the share'olders' 'earts." We duly sympathised with the ancient railroader. "So you will get a pension from the South Eastern and Chatham in addition to the Government Old Age Pension?" The old man nearly dropped our belongings in his amazement.

We will not repeat the poor man's conversation; it was too sulphuric. Its purport, however, was to us—and we think it will be also to our readers—a complete revelation. These outside porters get no pay whatever from the Company. They must subsist upon whatever the public like to give them. In case our readers may think this a casual sort of job where the men can go and come as they like, let us put them right on that point. The hours of labour are fixed by the Company, and they must be rigidly adhered to. Moreover, these unpaid servants have each a certain amount of work to perform on the Company's premises—such as sweeping up the cab-ranks, forecourt, platforms, and cleaning lamps and windows. For all this the Company do not pay one penny piece, and if the men do not do the work properly they get fined into the bargain. Talk about slavery! Of course, it will be asked why the men put up with it? The answer is that most of them are married and past heavy manual labour. They are, therefore, glad of anything that will bring them in a mere existence.

A GUARDED GUARANTEE.

WHERE THE GRINDERS OF THE FACES OF THE POOR SMILE.

The following guarantee recently appeared in the *Weekly Dispatch*: "*Your Money will be returned* by every advertiser in the *Weekly Dispatch* selling articles of general utility through the post *if you are not satisfied*, provided the goods are returned carriage paid, within three days, in the same condition as when sent out. . . . This scheme has been devised in the interest of our readers to give them increased confidence when ordering goods through the post from *Weekly Dispatch* advertisers." It will be interesting to know how many of the present advertisers will have to withdraw their advertisements under such conditions, but it does not affect the worst class of cases, such as that of the Royal Furnishing Company, 330, Essex Road, London—whose pet game, it will be remembered, is to decline instalment business and to endeavour to stick to deposits by insisting on the taking of trumpery and unwanted articles to the alleged value of the amount paid.

HOME SAFES, LIMITED.

LET THERE BE LIGHT.

Many of our readers are expressing grave anxiety with regard to the present position and prospects of a concern known as the Home Safes Trading Company, Limited. We seem to have heard the name before, and if reports which reach us are correct, there is little room for doubt that those having financial interests in "Home Safes" would be much better off if their money were safe at home. The present company is the outcome of the reconstruction of the so-called "People's Agency," a savings deposit society, which went into somewhat sudden liquidation in January, 1911. On the demise of the latter institution, many of the members became shareholders in "Home Safes," being allotted fully-paid-up shares in proportion to their accumulated deposits in the "People's Agency." So far all looked well, and prospects were quite rosy, as they usually are in such cases, but eighteen months have now elapsed since the "reorganisation," and the aspect of affairs seems to have undergone a grave change. No dividend has been declared upon the £50,000 of capital with which the company was floated, and the directors evince a strange reluctance to confide to the shareholders the nature of their trading operations since September, 1911. We make no specific charges, but we venture to say quite distinctly that the Home Safes Company have undoubtedly forfeited the confidence of a large section of the public by the hole-and-corner way in which their business has been conducted. Many shareholders have received no balance-sheet since the incorporation of the company, while, apparently, no general meeting of shareholders has ever been held. These facts alone are sufficient to create grave suspicion. We call upon the directors to let a little daylight into their proceedings.

TRASH AND TRICKERY.

STRAIGHT TALK TO CROOKED DEALERS.

We should have thought the Great Central Supply Company had almost exhausted their stock of shady devices, but apparently there is no limit to their mischievous ingenuity. Here is the latest: A domestic servant at Ealing succumbed to the wiles of one of the company's touts, and gave an order for one of the usual pieces of trash—in this case a "gold" ring. As soon as the girl handled her treasure, which was priced at £2 10s., the stones fell out, leaving the "precious" metal in its bare and brazen beauty. The young woman very wisely sent it back, but it was returned to her, together with the usual intimation that the cancellation of the order was impossible. The company now have the effrontery to demand two shillings and sixpence per month for what they are pleased to call the "hire" of the ring. We warn the Great Central Supply Company—this kind of thing must stop.

A BOUNCING BANKRUPT.

VANISHING TRICKS IN SOUTH WALES.

Those of our readers who carry on business in South Wales will do well to be on their guard against a peculiarly slimy sort of rogue who has recently used the Port Talbot district as his field of operations. His *modus operandi* is one which is pretty familiar to those in the building trade. The rascal is an undischarged bankrupt, and as such is, of course, debarred from trading in his own name. This difficulty is surmounted by the use of an employee's name, on the strength of which the bankrupt has in many cases been able to obtain extensive credit from unsuspecting tradesmen. As soon as suspicion begins to arise, he leaves his creditors in the lurch, shifts his base of operations to some sufficiently distant place, and there begins the whole swindle over again. It appears that this person has for some years past been systematically defrauding tradespeople in this way, and it is strange that he should so long have escaped retribution. Where are the South Wales police?

An Opportunity that may never occur again. See page 465.

THE WOMAN WHO WASN'T.

MISS LLOYD-MOSTYN'S "PRESENTATIONS" AT SEVERAL "COURTS."

On February 15th last the *Lady's Pictorial* published the photograph and descriptive letterpress which we reproduce on this page.

Upon looking over the list of presentations furnished by the Court Newsman, we failed, however, to find Miss Lloyd-Mostyn's name. We therefore called upon the Editor of the *Lady's Pictorial* and asked for information regarding the identity of the fair *débutante*, and the name of the lady who presented her. All that our distinguished *confrère* was able to tell us, however, was that "someone"—he didn't know who—had sent him the photograph to be reproduced, that it had been returned, and that he had lost the address. The Mostyns and Lloyd-Mostyns, being respected members of the aristocracy, we next approached the head of each house, with no other result than an intimation from one of them that a woman calling herself "The Hon. Miss Lloyd-Mostyn" had stayed at a certain hotel in Folkestone in 1912, that she had no right to use the name, and that she was an adventuress. We had here, then, the elements of a most interesting case, and feeling that "Miss Lloyd-Mostyn" had an object in deceiving the Editor of the *Lady's Pictorial*, we determined to investigate her career and ascertain her present whereabouts—with the following result.

MISS LLOYD-MOSTYN.

(Who was among the débutantes presented at the first Court of this year, held by the King and Queen last week at Buckingham Palace.)

The Mystery Solved.

"Miss Lloyd-Mostyn," during the yachting week at Cowes, in 1910, was well known in the island by the name of Madeline Lloyd. She managed to get an introduction into Society from a well-known Member of Parliament, and was many times seen on the lawn of the Royal Yacht Club. She proceeded to Ryde, and there—to use a phrase not often applied to a claimant to aristocratic connections—she "got pinched"—in other words, she was apprehended by the police for stealing from three different shops. She then had rooms at one of the most expensive hotels in the island. The local magistrates committed her for trial.

On October 21st, she appeared before the Hampshire Quarter Sessions. To all three charges she pleaded guilty. During the hearing of the case, counsel for the prosecution stated that while the "lady" was at Cowes, posing as one of the *élite*, she had committed another trio of thefts—three is evidently her unlucky number. It also transpired that for a considerable time she had been perpetrating robberies in London. Counsel produced a sheet containing details of her numerous offences of this character. Her procedure in each case was to enter a shop, pretend that she was going to purchase something, ask to see other things, and then, while the attendant's back was turned, hide articles about her person and take them away without paying. The articles she had stolen varied in value from a shilling to a couple of hundred pounds—the total amounting to £635. A detective told the Bench that Madeline had been convicted at Greenwich, Westminster, Maidstone, and Tunbridge Wells, and described her as a cool, clever, and daring thief.

Conviction and Astonishing Sequel.

The fight for Madeline by her counsel was, to say the least of it, astonishing. In the course of the evidence it transpired that after she had been let out on bail at Ryde she—as a kind of death-bed repentance—returned most of the stolen property to the police. "She is," said her counsel, "in the service of a gentleman and invalid lady, at Lee, acting as housekeeper and companion to the latter. Her employers were very fond of her, and they had never missed a single penny from their house. He had himself tried to ascertain from her why she committed the thefts, and the only answer he could get was that 'she liked to get pretty things.' It would be a terrible thing to see this good-looking girl in the dock branded as a common thief. Whatever happened, her employers would take her back into their service." The hard-headed members of the Bench, however, were not to be seduced by counsel's pleading, nor were they moved to compassion by the artful creature in the dock, but awarded her twelve months' imprisonment.

Her Present Whereabouts.

True to his pledge, her old employer (who had been one of her sureties) took her back into his service on her liberation from prison. He is an elderly gentleman, living at Bromley with his invalid sister. Asked if he knew why the Editor of the *Lady's Pictorial* had been deceived, he said there was nothing wrong in it, as it was purely a piece of vanity. When we suggested that she was a woman whose record suggested a much less venial motive, he exclaimed, "She is not a 'woman,' but a very highly educated lady, and is a friend of both the present King and Queen, having frequently met their Majesties in private"—though he could not give us a date or place where such a signal honour had been bestowed upon her. Inquiries in Lee and Bromley show that Madeline is quite a local character—her pose as being above the common herd is notorious.

Whatever may be Madeline's present schemes, we hope we have put the public on their guard.

"FIFTY SHILLINGS FOR A RUINED LIFE."

A LEARNED CORRESPONDENT IN A LEGAL FOG.

We recently called attention to the sad case of a domestic servant, who was induced by the deceit of an Accident Insurance agent to accept £2 10s. as compensation for injuries from which she has since become a complete physical wreck. A Lincoln reader now sends us a lengthy epistle, in the course of which we are treated to a somewhat elaborate disquisition upon the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, with which we were already perfectly familiar. Our correspondent has missed the whole point of our article. We were not concerned to discuss the legal rights of the unfortunate girl. Our whole case was that she had been wickedly induced to forego these rights by the unscrupulous statements of an Insurance official. In this way, a so-called settlement "by consent" was obtained, which may or may not have been registered in the County Court. Such registration is entirely optional and takes place only at the instance of one or other of the parties. In the case to which we referred the distinguished lawyer, who was the girl's employer, had good reasons of his own for avoiding registration—while the girl herself, happily for the Insurance Company, was entirely ignorant of those legal rights upon which our would-be informant insists. Our withers are quite unwrung by our correspondent's polite reference to our "ignorance of law." In any case, we have read all he has to say, and we still stigmatise the action of the Insurance Company and their agent as a callous and calculated fraud.

SWEATING TYPISTS.

A COPTHALL AVENUE GUINEA "PIG."

Mr. J. Forrest Walters, of 135, Copthall House, Copthall Avenue, is Managing Director of the Automatic Centrifugal Pump, Ltd., Chairman of the Rubber, Petroleum and Finance Co., Ltd., and a director of half-a-dozen other concerns. Incidentally, we may mention that he is also a sweater of typists, if the treatment which he meted out to Miss Bettie Winstone, of Dalston, was according to his custom. The girl stated in the City of London Court recently that Walters engaged her as shorthand-typist, that she was to work for one month without salary, and that thereafter she was to receive 7s. 6d. per week! Think of it, 1s. 3d. a day, or just under 2d. an hour! But she did not receive that sum even, for when she had worked the four weeks for nothing and the fifth week in expectation of drawing her 7s. 6d., Walters told her he had no money to pay her with! The director of eight joint-stock concerns did not possess 7s. 6d. for his shorthand-typist, after she had worked five weeks for him! Luckily, Miss Winstone had Walters up before Mr. Registrar Wild and he was ordered to pay not only the 7s. 6d., but also another 7s. 6d. for another week in lieu of notice. But to think that Walters is allowed to associate with decent people and to direct the affairs of shareholders in his joint-stock enterprises! What does he do with his fees?

PIOUS PRIVATES AND SELFISH SNOBS.

TABOO FOR TIENTSIN TOMMIES.

In Tientsin there is a mixed garrison of British and American soldiers, and for some time past it has been the custom of the Union Church to hold a Bible class which soldiers serving under the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes have attended in common with the ordinary population. To the surprise of the men, it is now announced that the class is to be split up. A corporal stationed at the infantry barracks found out that several of the civilian residents objected to the presence of the military, hence the separation. We can well understand the indignation of the Tommies. They should follow the example of Thomas Hood's naughty little boy:—

"Put your thumb unto your nose
And spread your fingers out—"

and tell the oily snobs to go to Heaven—saloon passage, of course!

"FITS AND TRYING ON."

TEARING THE MASKS OFF WOLVES IN CLERICAL CLOTHING.

How much longer are certain newspapers going to publish the swindling advertisement of the pseudo-clergyman, "A.D.," or "E.D."—or any other initials (they being changed for each paper, as they are merely "keys" of the particular trap). It announces, as from Grasmere House, Winsford, Cheshire, that "A clergyman who has cured hundreds offers copy of specialist's prescription free of cost; failure impossible"—applicants being recommended to obtain from Whitby and Co. (who are given a flattering testimonial by this professedly independent self-styled preacher of the Gospel) an exorbitantly-priced substance christened "Koronium Bromide." We now have overwhelming evidence that Whitby and Co. actually themselves insert and pay for these bogus announcements, and it is surprising that any respectable journal should be a party to its columns being used to defraud its readers in this barefaced way. Harold Cuthbert Whitby, we believe, lived at Grasmere House until our recent exposure made the place too hot for him; he thereupon moved and placed his business under a manager, occasionally coming to the shop to see how quickly and to what extent the fools and their money were being parted. Analysis shows that Whitby's specific is really a well-known medicine, being 81 per cent. of dry stronium bromide, filled up with water. The real cost of stronium bromide is 2s. to 3s. 8d. per pound, whereas the tricksters manage to pass it off under their fancy name for a minimum of 16s. a pound. What says the Pharmaceutical Society? Possibly, however, Whitby is an outsider, as we note he describes his concern as being "wine merchants" in addition to carrying on the more orthodox branches of a chemist's business.

GREEDY GOVERNORS.

PAUNCHY PROTECTORS OF PHILANTHROPIST'S PURSE.

It would be difficult to find a more callous and gluttonous set of guardians of a philanthropist's purse than the Governors of George Heriot's Trust, who recently met in Edinburgh to discuss "economies." After arranging that no additional appointments should be made to the list of girl foundationers during the next five years—thus saving £500—they proceeded to put a stop to the children's summer outing. They then cut down the free scholarships by 50 per cent., and increased the fees of paying pupils. Finally, a personal note was struck. It is customary to have a Governors' dinner every year, the cost of which is defrayed by the Trust. Councillor M'Michael moved that each Governor should henceforth pay for his own food, whereupon Councillor Harrison moved that the question should be discussed in private. Councillor M'Michael opposed, but lost by eight votes. So the matter of the dinner was dealt with behind doors barred and bolted. Result—ten votes to six in favour of a free feed! We hope the ten will get indigestion.

'TWAS BUT A GIRL SCOUT.

HOW THE POLICE BUNGLING STRIKES WOKINGITES OVERSEAS.

The following lines—their crudeness is excused by their sincerity—are by a Toronto resident, and are sent us "on behalf of a score of Wokingites in Canada":—

Quoth the Constable of Surrey,
"There's no need for any hurry,
To land by the neck that human devil.
And, though people think it hard
I don't call in Scotland Yard,
There really is no need to fret and cavil.
But with me you will hold,
Had it been a policeman bold
That was shot by a burglar in a fight,
We would not have lost a minute—
There's such a difference in it!—
I'd have called in 'The Yard' that very night!"

Pastime and Profit is provided by "Bullets." Over 5,000 Prizes weekly.

"TWO YEARS FOR AN INNOCENT MAN."

"WRITTEN OUT OF REPUTATION BY HIMSELF."

Quite phenomenal interest has been aroused in our recent article exposing the miscarriage of justice by which Brownhill, the young Sutton Coldfield schoolmaster, who had hitherto borne an irreproachable character, was convicted of sending to Alderman Evans, and others, grossly libellous and indecent letters and post-cards. Many readers have expressed a desire that we should publish a sample of the handwriting on the missives in question, the similarity of which with that of other anonymous communications received while Brownhill has been in custody being one of the strongest planks in the case for the release of the convicted man. We therefore give below a short extract from one of the letters read at the trial in November last, followed by a portion of a communication recently received by Mr. Kimpton, the solicitor for the defence.

I WILL CLOSE UP
HOPING TO HEAR FROM
YOU BY SATURDAY
I AM GOING SOUTH
FOR A DAY OR TWO
SO CAN'T REPLY BEFORE
MONDAY YOURS VERY SINCERLY
SPOTTER

I'VE WRITTEN TO
HOME SEC AND BROWNHILL'S
FAMILY THE FOLLOWING IS
MY IMITATION OF BROWNHILL'S
WRITING. Do not waste any
more time but get to work
'THE SPOTTER'

MR KIMPTON

The very short extracts we are able to give present no adequate idea of the extraordinary similarity of the characters forming the documents; but even with this scant material before him, can anyone doubt that the same hand traced the two communications?

A RAG-TIME DEPUTATION.

THEATRICAL MANAGER "DOING IT—DOING IT."

Six charming young ladies walked into our office the other day and complained bitterly about the treatment they had received at the London Opera House. It appears that what is termed a "Rag-Time Revue" is about to be produced there, and that they had been rehearsing for a week when they were told they need not appear again. When they asked for some remuneration they were ordered to clear out. We suggested to these coryphées that they should make their way again to the Opera House and rag-time the manager. Not that it would do much good, for everybody in the theatrical profession seems to be *doing* them.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

See page ii. of Cover.

SCHOLASTIC SCHEMERS.

HEADS WE WIN—TAILS YOU LOSE.

A reader calls our attention to the interesting methods of the M.P. Commercial School, of 1, Waterloo Road, Birmingham. Apparently the school is not overstocked with pupils, and the enterprising management have hit upon the following device. Poor parents who cannot afford to pay fees are invited to enrol their children as "apprentices," with an assurance that every effort will be made to find them remunerative business employment as soon as ever the priceless instruction of the school has rendered them proficient. Our correspondent, having seen an advertisement of this brilliant offer, made application for the admission of his daughter to the establishment. The father was then presented with an agreement by which he was to bind himself to send the girl to the school for a period of two years unless, before the expiration of that time, an outside situation was found for her through the agency of the school. In the latter event, half the girl's wages were to be paid to the school for the balance of the two years. The father, anxious to get his daughter into employment, signed this precious document, only to find that instead of being an apprentice in any proper sense of the word, the girl was merely put to work which in most business houses would be efficiently performed by the office boy. Her father assures us that she learnt nothing of any value at the school, and, in fact, lost some amount of her earlier proficiency in shorthand through want of practice. In due course the school introduced the young lady to an outside situation at a salary of twelve shillings a week, and they now demand a payment of six shillings a week from the father in pursuance of his signed agreement. It is obvious that the management so devised their form of contract as to secure for themselves the maximum of advantage with the minimum of liability. By its terms they might keep an "apprentice" a month, find her a job at 5s. per week, and then levy a contribution of 2s. 6d. per week for 23 months. Such an arrangement is clever, but if ever it comes into Court, the M.P. Commercial School will be called upon to prove that they have performed their part of the bond. Even a bad bargain usually has two sides.

AN IMPERTINENT POSTCARD.

ANOTHER CHOICE EXAMPLE OF EPISTOLARY ETHICS.

The recipient of the extraordinary post-card we reproduced last week—sent by the Hon. Sydney Holland, Chairman of the London Hospital—in response to a natural protest, has received from 76, Cadogan Square, the following eccentric communication—marked "Not private"—and signed by that master in the art of polite letter writing:—

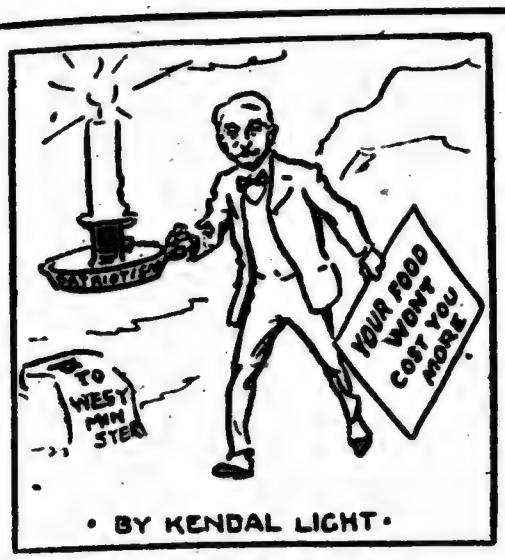
> I am extremely obliged to you for your very rude, and I am sure characteristic letter. I am also much obliged to you for sending on my postcard "to the proper quarter for publication." If only it is published I shall be so grateful to you for getting me an advertisement and I shall have such pleasure in raising a laugh by sending your letter and this my reply also for publication. I am sure you will not object, as your letter is not marked private. Please tell me where you have sent my postcard. Kindly tell me, too, in what way I addressed you. You write: "You have no right to address me in the manner of your postcard." So sorry—are you a Duke or a Peer—or even a poor Honble. like myself—though you address me as "Esq."? No, think your letter over again. It is the letter of a cross, ill-conditioned man. By the same post I got 2 letters from 2 good fellows, one sending £5 and the other £21 and regretting they had overlooked my former letter. What a contrast!
>
> Yrs. faithfully
> (not "etc.," as you sign, and which might stand for a good deal, best left unsaid in yr. case),
> SYDNEY HOLLAND.

Evidently the Honourable's definition of a "good fellow" is one who will not resent begging appeals, no matter how outrageous their form or persistent their manner. Mr. Holland doubtless considers himself "wonderful smart," but he should spare from his scathing wit inoffensive strangers who take exception to his pistol-at-head attitude.

Hurry up, please, Send in your Football Entries NOW.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."



• BY KENDAL LIGHT •

To Westminster the victor comes,
Filled full of jubilation;
Thus Kendal on his party throws
A brief illumination.

• A HIDEOUS CRIME •

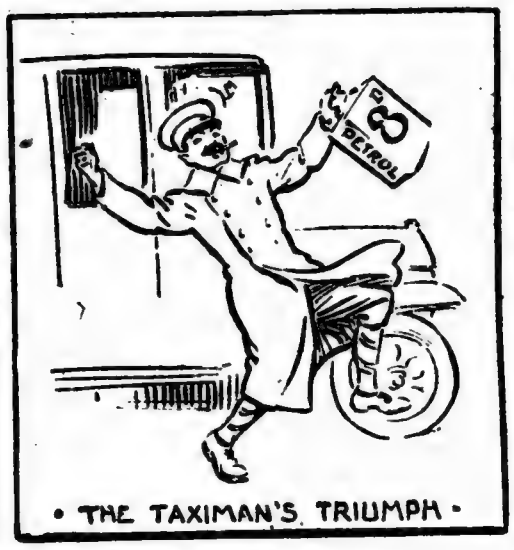
Again the world a shock receives,
And royal tears fast flow
To hear that, by a murderous hand,
The King of Greece lies low.

20 CWT. = 1 BUN

Once more John Bull lies, hot and cross,
In indigestion's clutch,
Because on Friday last he ate
Not wisely but too much.

"BENK 'OLIDIY"

The happy crowds indulge with zest
In Easter Monday play,
And claim, when night falls, that they've had
"Not 'arf a nollerday!"



• THE TAXIMAN'S TRIUMPH •

Behold the taxi-driver's glee,
Now eightpence is the cost
Of petrol; but will he get back
The money he has lost?

• PRAGGER-WAGGER'S WANDERJAHRE •

The Prince of Wales in Germany
For a short time sojourns,
And with much sweat and agony
The awful language learns.

EASY MONEY.

MANCHESTER WATCH COMMITTEE BLUNDER AGAIN.

Our readers may remember that two Manchester constables were recently mulcted in £10 damages for improperly arresting a youth who had done no harm. It now transpires that the Watch Committee of the City Council have agreed to pay the damages out of the ratepayers' money. This strikes us as being a most remarkable proceeding, and we imagine it will be as unpopular as it deserves to be. It is surely bad enough for the Manchester public to be badgered and worried by officious and meddlesome constables, without their being called upon to relieve the officers in question of a penalty they richly deserved. By acting as they have done, the Watch Committee have practically condoned the offence of the policemen and thus jeopardised the reasonable liberty of every peaceable citizen. To make matters worse, it appears that the Committee did their best to shuffle the business through *in camera*, and it is largely due to the public-spirited action of Councillor Ross Clyne that their decision enjoys proper publicity. As a crowning piece of ineptitude, the Watch Committee have now censured him for his conduct in the matter. We are not surprised, and are disposed to congratulate Mr. Ross Clyne upon a well-merited distinction. We can imagine few higher compliments than to be censured by the Manchester Watch Committee.

GILBERTIAN JUSTICE.

THE LATEST "RAG-TIME" BURLESQUE.

We have often had to criticise some of our judges for passing either inadequate or too severe sentences, but the New York judge who recently tried three undergraduates of the University of North Carolina, has, we venture to think, passed all records. It appears that the three prisoners awakened at midnight a student named Rand, covered him with blacking, and carried him to the College green, where he was compelled to dance and sing on the top of a barrel. In his nude state he fell on a broken bottle and sustained fatal injuries. The three miscreants were sentenced to four months' imprisonment, but the judge allowed them to take advantage of a practice which permits certain prisoners to be hired out by the State as labourers during their time of detention. These youths were immediately hired by their parents for £20 each, thus nullifying the punishment. It is fortunate that we have no such procedure here. We generally find that persons who are "ragged" at our Universities or in the Army or Navy are snobs or sneaks and deserve it, but even in such cases "ragging" must be confined to reasonable limits, and when the practice is abused the perpetrators should be suitably punished. However—as certain "regrettable incidents," which must still be fresh in the public mind, clearly show—even we in this country are inclined to be too lenient with young hooligans of "gentle" birth.

Remember! £7 a Week for Life. £1,250 Cash must be won.

"BROKE" IN A BANK.

BULLION, BULLION, EVERYWHERE, BUT NOT A SOU, TO SPEND!

The London County and Westminster boasts of the fact that it is the biggest Joint Stock Bank in the country, and that, besides returning its shareholders a dividend of over 20 per cent., its pays its clerks (who they desire shall be gentlemen's sons and public school men) slightly higher salaries than the usual run of these institutions. But even this scale of remuneration is insufficient to enable their employees to live in decency and maintain the show which is expected of them. Every year sees an increase in the enormous sums of money spent for ornate show on the public side of the counter and the rooms into which clients are invited; but the salaries of the clerks remain the same. On entering the service of the institution at seventeen, the budding Baring is given a book of rules and told, amongst other things, that he must dress like a gentleman and on no account bet or get into debt. He then receives £50 per annum, his parents or guardians guaranteeing to allow him for the first few years a sum sufficient to raise his income to £80, the Bank yearly increasing his stipend by £10. This may sound handsome, but a little examination shows that the highly respectable and necessarily dressy clerk obtains but £180 a year when he is thirty years of age—a salary on which it is hardly possible for him to marry and live in a decent quarter of the town—especially as there are compulsory deductions such as £1 5s. as a guarantee premium, 17s. 4d. for National Insurance, and about £4 5s. as premium on his £200 life policy, which he cannot touch until he is 63 years of age. His lodgings, perforce decent, will cost him from 18s. to 20s. a week, or nearly the whole of the Bank's initial salary—whilst his expenditure on dress will amount to fully £10 a year. These indispensable and elementary outgoings, it will be seen, total £70—leaving him, on his entrance into the service, and for some years thereafter, but £10 to provide all pocket money during the twelve months and defray his travelling expenses—including, probably, visits to this parents at holiday times—cricket, tennis, hockey and football club subscriptions (he is expected to be "a sport"), tobacco, and an occasional glass of beer. How, then, can the poor young fellow avoid getting into debt? Doubtless the directors could add to their boast the assertion that very few cases of clerks getting into financial difficulties have come to their notice—yet, if the truth were known, the junior who owes less than, say, £10, is quite a phenomenon. The explanation is that, knowing the harshness of the rule and humanely reluctant to ruin a young man at his entrance into business life—especially for an almost inevitable offence—very few managers will report for debt, and, if they do, the matter almost invariably gets no further than the Assistant Country Manager, who generally tells the culprit that if he does not resign at once the directors will be informed and he will be dismissed.

Another grievance is that juniors are practically absolutely at the mercy of their manager and chief clerk, the Head Office authorities—imbued with what they consider to be ideas of discipline—invariably refusing to accept a clerk's word against that of his superior. To his subordinates the branch manager is indeed a little tin god, and he can do pretty well what he likes. For instance, we hear of one who not only breaks the rule of his employers against attending race meetings, but does so even during business hours—going to the extent of openly asking his juniors for "tips." The same man has actually been known to report one of his wretched underlings for incurring a small debt!

"THE POOR AND THE POOR RATE."

We continue to receive reports of the harsh treatment meted out to people who through one misfortune or another are unable to meet the demands of the rate collector. We shall return to the subject shortly. It is a shameful thing that men and women of good character, whose only crime is poverty, should be imprisoned.

CHARITY DISILLUSIONED.

She was one of those tender-hearted women whose love must be bestowed upon someone or something. If she had been married, her whole heart would have gone out to the man of her choice, or, had she been blessed with children, to them. But she was unmarried, nor had she any relatives with whom she could share her gladness in life; so she shed the warming rays of her love upon the world around her.

As she gazed from her window upon the street beneath she saw a man standing in the gutter with hand outstretched, whose eyes, she thought, conveyed to all who saw him a mute prayer for assistance. The sun was shining brightly, but it was winter, and a keen, frosty wind was blowing boisterously down the street, searching out the vulnerable parts of his scanty clothing, which, in point of shabbiness, would have disgraced any respectable scarecrow. At first she was surprised that he should have chosen such a thoroughfare in which to beg. Passers-by were scarce in that road as a rule. Yet as she watched her astonishment grew, for the string of pedestrians which passed the beggar was unprecedented within her memory. A sleek, fashionably-dressed man, accompanied by a young lady in heavy furs, were the first to attract the attention of the watcher at the window; and she noticed the supercilious sneer of the man and the disdainful hauteur of the woman, as the lips of the beggar moved in mute appeal for charity. Many others passed, some without noticing the unfortunate fellow in the gutter; some met his plea for alms with silent scorn, others with a muttered curse. At last a cleric came in view. Surely he would help a fallen fellow-man. But no; he saw him from a distance, and crossed the road with undignified abruptness. The white-haired lady at the window saw the action, and mourned the heartlessness of the clergyman. Tears glistened in her eyes as she rose and silently crossed the room. Opening a drawer in her writing-desk, she took out a purse. Then, placing a shawl over her head, she left the room, noiselessly let herself out of the house and crossed to where the mendicant stood. She heard a shout behind her, and a man who was passing whispered in her ear. But she was deaf to everything. Her thoughts were centred upon the man shivering before her. She abstracted a half-crown from her purse and proffered it to him. He seemed embarrassed and she thought he was surprised at the amount of her gift. But she could afford it and assured him of it. But no; still he refused to take it, and at length he said, with a break in his voice:

"F'r Gawd's sake put that 'arf dollar back, mum, an' wark orf wiv yer nose in the air. You'll spile the sinner-mat'graph film, and then I shan't get my five-bob to-day"!

L. B.-P.

TWINKLE, TWINKLE, ZEPPELIN.

Twinkle, twinkle, Zeppelin,
How I wonder where you've "bin"!
Up above the world so high,
Like a sausage in the sky.

Did you take a little flight
Over England in the night?
Did they make a nice new law,
When your fairy form they saw?

Did they send up rockets red,
Wakening the folk in bed,
Wakening the sleeping town
With their shouts of "Hi! Come down!"?

Did they think you would obey?
Did you simply sail away,
And, with laughter long and loud,
Hide yourself behind a cloud?

Wouldn't it have spoilt the fun,
If they had an airship gun?
But, as no such thing they've got,
Aren't their rules a lot of rot?

Duncan Tovey.

Ladies are specially invited to enter our Football Competition. £100 Ladies' Prize.

ARE YOU A GOOD SPEAKER?

"The Book of Public Speaking"—First Payment 1/6 only.

At no time has the art of Public Speaking been so valuable or the occasions for the making of Public Speeches so frequent as at the present. Indeed, no man can occupy a position of any prominence without being at times faced with the problem of making a speech at some public meeting or semi-private gathering.

For that reason the publication of "The Book of Public Speaking" is an event of the greatest importance. For it is the first comprehensive work upon this important subject ever published in this country. It provides at once a collection of the greatest speeches of the world's greatest orators and at the same time a reliable guide to the Art of Public Speaking, written by men who are themselves famous as speakers of the highest merit.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST SPEECHES.

There is hardly an orator of note of recent years who is not represented in the work; there is scarcely a subject of importance or of interest that is not dealt with in some one or more of the speeches. Among the great speakers whose speeches are included in the work are:—

Lord Rosebery.	Horatio Bottomley.
Lord Beaconsfield.	John Bright.
H. H. Asquith.	Sir A. Conan Doyle.
A. J. Balfour.	Sir Edward Grey.
W. E. Gladstone.	Earl Halsbury.
Sir Edward Clarke.	Sir Henry Irving.
Andrew Lang.	Lord Fisher.
D. Lloyd George.	Abraham Lincoln.
Winston Churchill.	Justin McCarthy.
Mark Twain.	Viscount Milner.
Spencer Leigh Hughes.	M. Poincaré.
Joseph Chamberlain.	Whitelaw Reid.
Max O'Rell.	Theodore Roosevelt.
R. Waldo Emerson.	Philip Snowden.
Harold Cox.	Ian Maclaren.
Woodrow Wilson.	Emile Zola.
G. Bernard Shaw.	Augustine Birrell.
Charles Dickens.	Sir A. W. Pinero.
Chauncey Depew.	Etc., etc.

The pages of "The Book of Public Speaking" furnish ideas suggestions, and an endless amount of material that can be used with advantage by all who are faced with the task of preparing a speech.

HOW TO SPEAK IN PUBLIC.

Moreover, the value of the work is greatly enhanced by a series of remarkable articles on the art of Speaking in Public written by famous speakers and dealing with every phase of the subject in such a clear manner as to form a complete guide to Public Speaking. These articles and their authors include:

Rt. Hon. T. J. MACNAMARA, M.P., on "How to Make an Effective Speech."

ARTHUR BOURCHIER, M.A. (the well-known Actor), on "How to Prepare and Deliver a Speech."

J. L. GRIFFITHS (U.S.A. Consul-General, London), on "After Dinner Speaking."

A. C. BENSON, M.A., C.V.O., F.R.H.S., etc., on "The Art of Lecturing."

ALBERT CREW (of Gray's Inn, Barrister-at-Law), on "The Conduct of and Procedure at Meetings."

These articles cover every phase of the Art of Speaking from the choice of a subject and the collection of material to the art of gesture and the silencing of interruptors. It is safe to say that there is not a public speaker who will not gain by the careful study and application of their many valuable hints and suggestions.

FREE BOOKLET.

The publishers have prepared an interesting illustrated booklet—which they will send free—describing the work and their offer to deliver the complete work as published for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only, the balance being paid by small monthly payments.

To the Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.,
54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge and without any obligation on my part, full particulars of "The Book of Public Speaking."

Name .....
(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address .....
.....

Can you answer these questions?

An Article for All Engaged in Business.

You will probably find it quite easy to answer most of these questions, but unless you are a rare and brilliant exception you will find several others a good deal more difficult. Some of them, indeed, may be altogether beyond you.

And yet you will agree they are all questions that you might have to answer any day in your own business. So, if only out of curiosity—run through the list and see how many you can answer correctly.

13 Specimen Questions.

1. What is the exact purpose of a ledger?
2. What do these signs mean: "E. & O. E.," "F. A. S.," and "G. A."?
3. How would you open a branch?
4. What is a consignment note?
5. Do you know how to organise a sale?
6. Do you understand office organisation?
7. What is the difference between sending goods on "consignment" and "on sale or return"?
8. How often by law must a factory be "limewashed"?
9. How and when is a judgment summons issued?
10. What is the cost of registering a limited company?
11. Do you know how to take out a patent?
12. How would you draw a selling scheme?
13. How can you recover debts at court without the expense of a solicitor or collecting agency?

How Many Did You Answer?

Well, how have you come through this examination in business knowledge? You must not forget that the knowledge of these facts and of many other facts like them is absolutely necessary to you if you mean to succeed. If you are in business for yourself you know how useful you would find it to be able to answer any business problem that arose; if you are working for others you must realise that your employer will value you more highly if he knows he can go to you for information when he needs it.

And that is why the "Business Encyclopædia and Legal Adviser" is so valuable a work—because it contains information about every point in business life. With it by your side you can answer any question about business that is put to you. For instance, you can answer all the questions that you have just asked yourself. You will find the full purpose of a ledger in the article on Ledgers, Vol. III., page 294. Under "Abbreviations" you will find the meaning of every symbol and sign that is used in business to-day. The third question you will solve by looking up the fine article on the Basic Idea in Business, and so on with all the other questions; and, in fact, with any question about anything relating to business.

How This Concerns You.

These questions may not arise in your business, but others do, and if you think it would mean anything to you to know at once what to say or do in every emergency, you should send the coupon below for a handsome illustrated book on Business, telling all about the "Business Encyclopædia," and giving the names of the successful business men who have written it. It also tells how any reader of JOHN BULL may obtain the complete work in seven volumes for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only, and pay the balance in small monthly payments. Sending the coupon commits you to nothing. Is such an opportunity one you should miss?

A FREE BOOK.

This Coupon entitles you to one free copy of the book describing the "Business Encyclopædia," but it must be sent at once. It tells all about the work and the specially low terms to readers of JOHN BULL.

To THE CAXTON PUBLISHING CO., LTD.,
54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me one complimentary copy of the book on the "Business Encyclopædia." I am a reader of JOHN BULL.

NAME .....
(*Send this form or a postcard.*)

ADDRESS .....
.....

A VERY GASSY "META."

MORE "WRINKLES" ABOUT THE WRINKLE WRIGGLER.

The Dorsetshire reader referred to in our issue of the 1st has posted us on the latest move of the creasy cheek corrector. It will be remembered that she first received a blarneying imitation type-written letter from Harriet Meta, of 212, Great Portland Street, W., offering (instead of an advertised free trial of a wrinkle remover) a course of "treatment" in return for £1 1s., followed—as the money did not come along—by a cunningly worded letter, similarly produced, offering a reduction, out of personal interest, despite great resistance on the part of "the Shipping Department," which wanted to despatch the crease cure to impatient sufferers who were vainly tendering the full price. Again the bait was uselessly dangled before the assumed gudgeon; and now the West-countrywoman has received from Meta another bogus typewritten effusion, asking, "Will you accept as a present one full guinea course of my triplex system of beauty treatment? I mean what I say. I will give it to you absolutely free. Send me no money for the treatment now or at any other time." Meta, however, is (as would be suspected by anybody with a knowledge of man—and womankind—especially of the species to which Harriet belongs) lying. For, hidden well away in the letter, is the cool statement: "I only stipulate one condition, namely, that you send me your order for not less than 10s. worth of toilet necessaries named on the enclosed form." As there must be a very handsome profit on such mysterious concoctions as "Milk of Roses, 3s. 6d.; French Fon Fleur Perfume, 3s. 6d.; American Beauty Rose Perfume, 3s. 6d.; Creme To Kalon, 2s. 3d," we can well understand Harriet's ability to "give away" her furrow-flattener. What she does not appreciate, however, is that she is, at the same time, giving away herself!

By the bye, the head of the To Kalon Company is a Yankee named E. Virgil Neale, who used to run a concern which we have frequently exposed—the New York Institute of Science—as well as the notorious Venus Karnis Bust Developer, to which we have also referred, and a host of other quack "treatments" for removing money from fools. "Harriet Meta" is really this individual's wife, who conducted a "beauty parlour" in Paris. He is still interested in this latter concern, which is running flat-catchers on a gigantic scale, sending out sometimes in one week as many as 55,000 attempts at "touching" the pockets of addressees. "Bisurated Magnesia" is one of the articles which the little coterie are at present endeavouring to foist upon the public by means of artful advertisements, somewhat in the style of those of Whitby and Co.—being ostensibly inserted by some philanthropic physician desirous of benefiting humanity by disseminating knowledge of a certain cure for disorders of the digestive organs. This wonderful preparation is, however, apparently merely ordinary magnesia, to which has been added a little bicarbonate of soda. The substances could, of course, be bought at any chemist's, when the cost would be found to work out at about ¾d. for as much as under the To Kalon's fancy name extracts half-a-crown from the credulous public. The philanthropic physician is the firm's advertisement writer, who seems to adopt as part of his day's work any rôle which his employers desire. The concern works on the money-back principle, they finding negligible the proportion of "suckers" possessing the strong-mindedness, determination and tenacity necessary to continue writing and threatening until a refund has been forced—most of the victims being ashamed of themselves for having fallen into such obvious booby-traps and feeling only too glad to drop the matter, in the hope of forgetting their experience.

COLLECTING BOXES.

London.—Mr. G. Henwood, 61, Goodge Street, 1s. 9½d.; "Sympathiser," 11s. 10d.; Mr. J. Neal, "Nine Posts," 54, Charlotte Street, 1s. 1d.; Mr. P. Brinkley, "Bricklayers Arms," Charlotte Street, 1s. 3d.; Mr. G. Sanders, 54, Curtain Road, 1s.

Bristol.—Mr. W. G. Watjen, "Ye Grotto," 2s. 1d.; Mr. T. Mellish, Silver Street, 1s. 10d.

Edinburgh.—Mr. C. Clark, 1, Roseburn Terrace, 1s. 6½d.; Mr. F. Stevens, 69, Clerk Street, 1s. 3½d.; Mr. J. A. Archibald, 30, St. Stephens Street, 1s 3d.

Sheffield.—Mr. H. Athorn, 71, Broad Street, 1s. 6d.

Liverpool.—Mrs. Munroe, 178, Mount Pleasant, 1s. 0½d.

Tumble, S. Wales.—Mr. L. Nuttall, "Tivoli," 1s. 2 d.

Total: £1 8s. 8d., which we have allocated to CCXXXVIII.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CCXXXIX.

[In this column every week we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

BROKEN IN OUR WARS.

There is nothing more logical than that the rich of every country should be patriotic—but, if evidence were required that the poor patriot invariably dies in want, that evidence could undoubtedly be found among the cases for whom we have appealed. We should be lacking in honesty if we were not to admit that out of the many hundreds of applications we receive for help during the course of a year, more than sixty per cent. are from old soldiers. Of course, upon investigation, some of the applicants turn out to be unworthy of assistance, but in the vast majority of instances poverty has come upon these heroes through no fault of their own. The following case is typical:—

A strong, healthy man, 37 years of age, is married and has three children. He served in the Army for nearly nine years—six of which were spent abroad. His conduct is recorded as "good," whilst he received the British and Khedivial (1898) clasp "Khartoum," and the South Africa clasps (Tugela Heights, Relief of Ladysmith, Laing's Nek, and Transvaal). The State, after using his bone and muscle during the best ten years of his life, politely pitched him on to a congested labour market, and told him to do the best he could for himself. While on active service in South Africa the man in question took part in a night attack and sustained a wound so small that it was not reported at once, but later, finding himself getting deaf, he notified it. The usual court of inquiry followed, and because he could bring no proof of having been hit—the only man who saw the occurrence was, unfortunately, killed—no pension was granted him. Every year the man's deafness is getting worse, and of course, in view of the Workmen's Compensation Act, he finds it hard to compete with those in possession of their full faculties. Every article of clothing and furniture, and even his medals, have been pawned for food. Apart from his deafness, the man is of strong physique and capable of doing a hard day's work—moreover, he is only too eager to do it. He is not out to make a fortune; all he wants is work, in order that he and his family may have a shelter, food and clothing.

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:

CCXXXV.—"Bonifacio," 4s.

CCXXXVI.—"Bonifacio," 6s.; "Mary Deborah," 5s.

CCXXXVII.—"Dik," 2s. 6d.; "Bonifacio," 11s.; T. F., 5s.; "Aeben," 2s. 6d.; "Free Will," 12s.; "Two Bairns," 1s.; T. B., 10s.; "England's Duty," 1s.; "Mary Deborah," 25s.; H. T., 2s. 6d.; "Betty," 6d.; "A White Man," 2s. 6d.; "Bullet Maker," 2s. 2d.; "Elstow," 1s. 6d.; G. B., 6d.; T. B., 1s.; H. F., 6d.; C. A., 2s. 6d.; Mrs. A. H., 5s.; "Cumbrian," 2s. 6d.; "Ivy Mary," 1s.; "A Mite," 4s.; "Maritana," 1s.; D. O. U. T. E., 2s. 6d.; T. E. H., 1s.; "A Lover of Rhyl," 1s.; H. R., 2s.

CCXXXVIII.—"Ivy Mary," 1s.; T. H., £1.

ANOTHER GENEROUS DONATION.

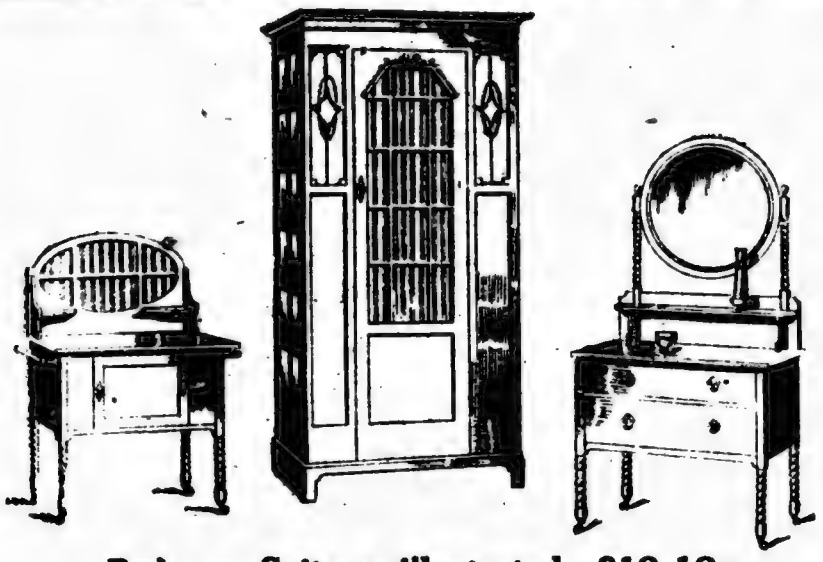
We have to acknowledge, with gratitude, a further subscription of £5 from "Ivy Mary," to be apportioned at our discretion amongst our "Human Documents." We may mention that this, like the previous donation under the same name, represents a father's memoriam to a lost daughter, and the donor has been good enough to promise a further subscription when the present fund is exhausted. We suggest that other bereaved parents might well follow this example.

The amount of 21s., acknowledged in our issue of March 15th, as from H. J. E., on behalf of the subject of "Human Document" CCXXXVI., was a donation from "Old Comrades' Association" (Exeter).

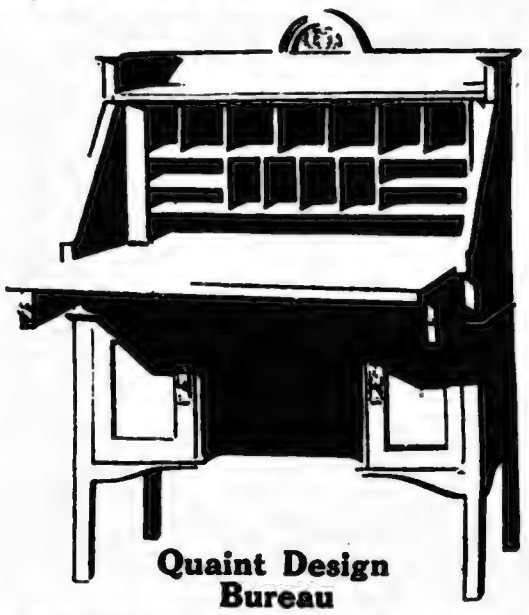
By the way, don't forget to take home "Mary Bull." On Sale Friday.

Easter-week Bargains

Our Furniture is so well-known—so widely bought and so eminently adapted to the latest ideas on furnishing that most people know from actual experience that no furniture ever made can equal ours for honest value—add to this the fact that this self same furniture is at the present moment to be obtained at very finely cut sale prices, and you get the reason why our furniture is just now, more than ever before, the furniture you should select.



Bedroom Suite as illustrated, £12 12s.



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To the Manager, Hackney Furnishing Co., Ltd., London.

Peterborough, 8th March, 1913.

Dear Sir,—I now write to acknowledge receipt of furniture I ordered, which arrived here about 1 p.m. on the 5th inst. I must congratulate you on the manner in which the goods were packed; there was only the washstand that received any damage, and that not worth speaking about. Both myself and wife are highly delighted with everything, and some items were far beyond my expectations. When one takes into consideration that I absolutely relied on your choice of all but two items, and then get what satisfies and pleases me, it speaks well for your management and straightforward dealings. I am that satisfied myself that I will recommend your firm without hesitation whenever the chance presents itself to me. You will find enclosed postal order, which please acknowledge. I am returning wrappers (18) by the Great Northern Railway on Monday. Again thanking you for your kind consideration, I am, Sir,

Yours truly, (Signed) R. S.

The original of this and hundreds of other testimonials can be seen at our Oxford Street Offices.

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£10	Worth	£0	6	0	per Month
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30	,,	0	17	0	,,
40	,,	1	5	0	,,
50	,,	1	8	0	,,
100	,,	2	5	0	,,
200	,,	4	10	0	,,
500	,,	11	5	0	,,
1,000	,,	22	10	0	,,

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REVEREND GENT: "Why don't you work? Work is one of the greatest pleasures in life."
WEARIED WILFRID: "But surely you, Sir, wouldn't advise me to indulge in a life of pleasure."

HEARD IN THE TRAIN.

LINGERIE AND THE LAW.

1ST LADY: I quite intended taking a trip over to the States this spring, but now, of course, it is entirely out of the question.

2ND LADY: Why, dear?

1ST LADY: Haven't you read it? It was in the papers last week. They have introduced a Bill into the Ohio Legislature—a kind of sumptuary law—to regulate the fashions, and there is every prospect of the idea being adopted by all the States. A most insulting measure—a legal censorship of dress.

2ND LADY: You don't mean it!

1ST LADY: Yes; it's almost unthinkable. The Bill is to appoint a Commission of three, one to be an ordained minister of some religious denomination or other, another is to be a parent of not less than three children, and the third what is called a "social settlement worker." These three impossible fogies are to supervise the designing and manufacture of women's clothing, and any garment that happens to be in the least—er—well, *you* know—is to be barred, or censored, or something. As if ministers of religion or parents of huge families knew anything about smart *lingerie* and such like!

2ND LADY: How should they?

1ST LADY: Utterly absurd! And they pretend that the Bill is put forward in the interest of morality! Surely one can be moral and proper and all that sort of thing without being a frump. Indeed, I often think that if the majority of wives took more trouble to make themselves attractive and desirable in their dress, husbands would not be so prone to run after other women—barmaids, ballet girls, and creatures of that sort.

2ND LADY: I quite agree. But how will this censorship work? I don't quite see how it can be applied.

1ST LADY: So far as I can understand, the wretched trio of Grundys, this precious Commission, will be empowered to prohibit such styles and patterns of garments as they shall deem to be detrimental to virtue or chastity. Open-work stockings and blouses are to be forbidden, and in the case of *decollete* dresses only two inches of neck are to be exposed. *Did* you ever hear of such a thing?

2ND LADY: My dear, it's too funny. What harm, for goodness gracious sake, is there in a transparent stocking? It leaves so little to the imagination that it cannot possibly disturb the serenity of the most susceptible man.

1ST LADY: Exactly. But at the same time we must agree that the Bill is a confession of the deadly fascination of our charm. I really had no idea that we poor, weak women were such dangerous creatures. But, speaking seriously, it seems to me there is far more need of a censorship of men's attire than of women's. *We* don't run about in public with bare knees, like the footballers, nor do we bathe in the disgracefully abbreviated costumes that some men use. But because we occasionally permit a shy glimpse of a white ankle or a plump chest we are to be censured! It is positively insane.

2ND LADY: For my part I love to see an athlete in his "shorts." Not that the sight has the least injurious effect upon my virtue, but it satisfies my æsthetic sense. And I'm not in the least ashamed to own it. I'm a regular Greek in that respect. Do you really intend to forego your trip to the States?

1ST LADY: Indeed I do! I have only just recently restocked my wardrobe with some of the most delightfully filmy things imaginable; and I shall most certainly not forego the pleasure of wearing them. (*Whispers.*) I hope that man in the corner hasn't overheard our conversation.

2ND LADY: I don't think he heard, dear, but I saw him catch a glimpse of your stockings a moment ago, and he instantly buried his face in his paper, quite flushed.

1ST LADY: Ha, ha! Poor thing!—Why, here we are! How quickly the time has passed to be sure!

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And Thousands of other Valuable Prizes.

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In that **Green** Packet you will find ten of the best GOLD FLAKE CIGARETTES the world can offer, with particulars of valuable prizes, including a splendid 20-h p. 6-cylinder "**Standard**" Car by Friswells' Ltd., similar to the one supplied to **His Majesty The King** for the Indian Durbar.

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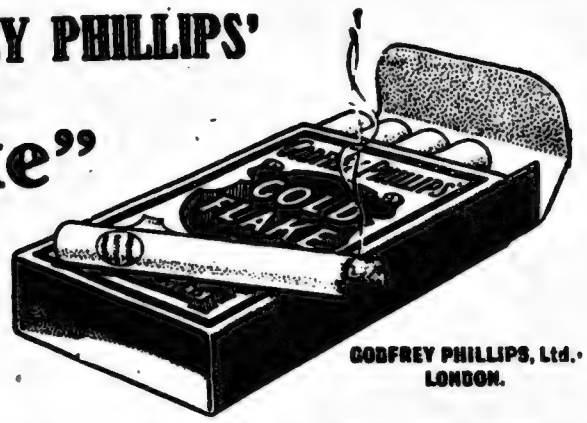
Jolly spins in the country during the week-ends. Glorious days at the seaside drinking in deep draughts of life-giving ozone.

Remember you are buying cigarettes of the purest quality, specially made from selected and matured Gold Flake, and not hardened by the inclusion of stalk, as many Gold Flakes are.

Ask for "GODFREY PHILLIPS' GREEN Gold Flake" CIGARETTES.

10 for 3d.

20 for 6d.



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to be treated by their Patent Process, because:

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A post-card from you, mentioning the section in which you are interested, will bring promptly a free copy of it. Address—

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OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS AND TELEGRAM.

To the Right Hon. J. A. Pease, M.P., President of the Board of Education.

Sir,—I am keenly interested in your proposed "Education" Bill, and I shall carefully scan its provisions. You see, I am looking for the "education" part of the measure. Of course, you can't get away from "the denominational problem"—which you tell us is incapable of solution. This sounds like a counsel of despair, my dear Pease—but you are not the man to despair. Take my advice, and cut right through it. Let the warring sects fight out their own battles, and let your Bill be an educational measure in fact as well as name. Give the parsons the go-by for once, and frame your proposal with a single eye to the welfare of the children.

And don't rely too much on Lord Haldane. Remember, he is a theorist, with his head very much in the clouds. There is plenty of scope in educational matters for men of business, whose feet are on solid ground, even though their heads may not reach quite so high. Our educational system must be adapted to the needs of a commercial people—to train the youngsters for the stern battle of life. Leave the "character forming" to the parents and the parsons when the kids are at home.

I wish you all success. Should victory crown your efforts, you will have earned the gratitude of a much-bored nation.

John Bull.

To the Right Hon. Col. Seely, M.P., Secretary of State for War.

Dear Seely,—You appear to be sincerely anxious that the humblest private should "carry a marshal's baton in his knapsack," and you declare your intention of making it easy for the right men to rise from the ranks. Personally, I believe that the efficiency of the Service would be enhanced by such a change, provided it was carried out with prudence and caution. There is one obstacle, however, which at present is well-nigh insuperable. As long as an officer's regimental pay has to be liberally subsidised from his private resources the position of a "ranker" is invidious and undesirable. Either he must get into financial difficulties, or be more or less "cold-shouldered" by men whose status is similar to his own. In the one case disaster is inevitable; in the other he loses caste, with a consequent weakening of his authority over those under his command. These circumstances must be well known to you. I venture to suggest that you should bring your judgment to bear upon this problem and devise some way out of the dilemma. Extravagance among officers should be sternly discouraged, and regimental pay should in all cases be sufficient to enable men to support the dignity of commissioned rank with comfort and self-respect.

John Bull.

To the Baron de Forest, M.P., House of Commons.

Dear Baron,—I see you have been made a member of the Eighty Club, and I suppose I ought to congratulate you. At any rate, the well-merited honours conferred upon you by these peripatetic orators will be some sort of solatium to you for the very nasty way in which they treated you at the Reform. They are a nasty, proud, stuck up lot. Besides, it wasn't as though you were a poor man. You're a real live baron, and they tell me you've got tons of money. They ought to have had more sense.

Some people say it was because of the company you keep. Just between ourselves, there is a rumour that you were seen one day in—well, never mind where—talking to Keir Hardie and two of his pals. *Do* be more careful,

John Bull.

To the Right Hon. Henry Chaplin, M.P.

Dear Mr. Chaplin,—I am glad to see that you are back in the House after your recent accident—but what a change! Scarcely any reference to Tariff Reform in the Debate on the Address, and what there was was wishy-washy stuff, wasn't it?

Whatever will you tell the farmers when next you meet them? To "wait and see"?

John Bull.

To Mr. Justice Avory, Law Courts, Strand.

O Upright Judge,—I observe that a prisoner whom you were recently called upon to try objected when the jury intimated that they had heard enough. He felt that in common justice they should have heard him to the end and not have interposed their premature conclusion. There was something in this plea. It is scarcely fair that juries should be permitted to cut short the process of trial at their pleasure—at any rate, during the defence. The complexion of a case may frequently be altered from hour to hour and from moment to moment, and an ill-timed expression of opinion may embarrass a defendant, or his counsel, and thus impede the course of justice.

The practice to which I refer is becoming far too common, and I shall be glad if you will discuss it with your judicial brethren.

By the bye, do you remember a trial in which you were the prosecuting counsel and *you* wanted to cut short the defence? It was one of the most troublesome you had ever listened to—wasn't it? But let bygones be bygones.

John Bull.

To R. L. Outhwaite, Esq., M.P., House of Commons.

Dear Single Taxer,—You may be a person of very brilliant ideas, but you certainly do not possess the priceless gift of tact. Even if you do want to confiscate the landowners' property, it wasn't at all wise to blurt the fact into their faces from your place in the House of Commons. Such plain and direct talking may be all very well for street corners in the Potteries, but it can only injure the "cause" when noisily hurtled into the serene air of the House of Commons. You see, you have let the cat out of the bag. You might have talked about the "progressive taxation of land values" till you were black in the face and no one would have minded, but "confiscation" is a nasty word, and people don't like it—especially those who have got land, and a rooted notion that it's their own. And some of such people sit on the Liberal benches.

What your friends Hemmerde and Wedgwood will say, I can't imagine. They would never have been so truth——er—so clumsy. And as for the dear Chancellor—well, there, it isn't playing the game!

John Bull.

To the Governor of Holloway Prison.

Sir,—I have received scandalous reports as to the treatment meted out to prisoners in the penitentiary over which you preside. Some of the warders and wardresses whom you are supposed to control appear to be creatures void of the least vestige of human sympathy. Quite recently I felt it my duty to direct public attention to a particularly bad case of inhuman treatment, as an outcome of which you might easily have had a woman's death at your door. Now a female prisoner has actually died in the prison hospital, and from what I know of the methods which obtain in your institution, I cannot feel satisfied that she received due care and consideration.

Even if people have committed offences against society, they are entitled to be treated as human beings and to freedom from cruelty and spite. You have supreme authority within your domain. I call upon you to inaugurate a new régime, in which common decency shall have a place.

John Bull.

To Sir Thomas Lipton.

Dear Sir Tom,—I much regret that we are not to witness your fourth attempt to wrest the American Cup. All lovers of sport will regret the decision of the New York Yacht Club. It appears, however, that you have other racing events in prospect, and I wish you all the luck you deserve. You have proved yourself a sportsman of the best type—what a contrast to the Yankees!

John Bull.

Colonel Weston, M.P., Kendal, Westmorland.

You don't seem to have lost much by Bonar Law's boycott because of your free kicks at Tory Party machine. Like your independence and hope you'll keep it up in Parliament.

Bull.

Our World's Record Offer—£7 a Week for Life, and £1,250 cash.

THE KENDAL CONQUEST.

Another blow has been struck at the stupid and antiquated Party system by the return—with a handsome majority—of Colonel Weston for Kendal, where he stood as an Independent candidate, ignoring all the conventional Party issues.)

JOHN BULL: "Bravo, Colonel! *You're* doing 'National Service' of the very best!"

HOW I COMMENCED.

LIFE STORIES OF EMINENT MEN AND WOMEN.

By Retlaw.

1.—Mr. Winston Churchill.

I began my career in a very small way—6 lbs., to be exact. But it was not long before I made a mark—on the nurse. Even as an infant in long clothes I contrived to make my voice heard, and frequently kept my doting parents awake into the small hours with the power of my impassioned oratory. The first indication of my subsequent adhesion to the "Blue Water" school of naval policy was the avidity with which I took to the feeding bottle; but it was not until I was breeched that a dim presentiment of my future greatness dawned upon my family. After a certain desperate adventure in the servants' quarters, which were forbidden to me, resulting in the destruction of a quantity of crockery and the resignation of the cook and kitchenmaid, I overheard my father—whose biography I have had the pleasure of writing—declare in emphatic tones "That boy will go far—as far as we can decently send him. Nothing but a well-disciplined boarding school will lick him into shape." And even my old nurse, unwittingly prophetic, was heard to say, "Drat that boy! He's a reg'lar young dread nought—that's what he is. I never see sich a child."

It is astonishing how small a thing can influence and shape a man's career. Those simple words, half jokingly uttered by my affectionate old nurse and subsequently repeated to me by the page boy, fired my imagination, and helped me to consolidate my nebulous ambition. The words "dread nought" rang in my ears with significant persistence, and I vowed that some day I would be First Lord of the Admiralty—and that before I had reached the age of forty.

Of course, I kept this epoch-marking resolution to myself. Indeed, I was even artful enough to finesse a bit, permitting my parents to believe that I intended to make the Army my profession. Consequently, I offered no opposition when they proposed to send me to Harrow, and ultimately to Sandhurst.

In 1895 I took the first definite step towards the goal of my ambition—the Admiralty—for in that year I joined the Army, and very soon afterwards was in Cuba with the Spanish forces, fighting with the desperate valour characteristic of the Churchill breed. Having gained a Spanish medal for this, and with my eye still fixed on the First Lord's seat, I returned to England, and in 1897 took my second important step towards the objective which I so passionately desired—I joined the Malakand Field Force, and saw active service in India.

Upon my return home from the wars I found, to my disgust, that the First Lordship of the Admiralty seemed as far beyond my reach as ever; so when the South African War broke out I decided to join the British expedition as War Correspondent for the *Morning Post*; for, thought I, if active service with the Army, combined with journalism, does not—under our Party system—carry me to the top of the Admiralty ladder, whatever will?

Upon my return, feeling confident that at last I had qualified myself to direct the fleets of the Empire, I became a Member of Parliament in the Conservative interest.

It presently dawned on me, however, that I had made a mistake. I discovered that I had joined the wrong party. This error was soon repaired. I left the Tory camp and went over to the Radicals, who were very pleased to see me. I now realised that the Admiralty was within my reach. All I had to do was to serve successively as Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, President of the Board of Trade, Home Secretary, and become an Ecclesiastical Commissioner. Having thus specialised in Naval affairs, I removed McKenna from the chair he had been kind enough to keep warm for me, and took my seat as First Lord. And that shows you what dogged determination can do.

OUR "BULLETS" COMPETITION.

FURTHER INCREASE OF PRIZES.

We direct special attention to the announcement on page 470 as to a further increase in our "Bullets" First Prize, making the amount £450, and bringing the total prize fund up to no less than £1,770. We trust this step will have the result of further stimulating the interest of our competitors, and of making "Bullets" even more popular than they are at present.

THE NEW EXCELSIOR.

By Ricardo.

The shades of night were falling fast,
As through the silent village passed
A motor-car, in which there sat
Two girls, each saying through her hat—
"Votes for Women!"

"Try not the house," the chauffeur said,
"For there are folk asleep in bed;
The railway station's blank and wide!"
And soft those voices twain replied—
"Votes for Women!"

"Then, stay," one maiden said, "'tis best.
While you watch here we'll do the rest."
A wink lurked in her bright blue eye,
And once again she tuned her cry—
"Votes for Women!"

The station reached, where lights were out,
They strewed their paraffin about,
Gunpowder, too, deposited,
As each one to the other said—
"Votes for Women!"

Their grisly work accomplished, they
Prepare once more to steal away;
But ere their exit they commence,
This card they fix upon the fence—
"Votes for Women!"

They anxiously apply a match
Before their car again they catch;
Then, welcoming the first red glow,
They murmur softly as they go—
"Votes for Women!"

Ere break of day, all heavenward,
The buildings burn upon the sward;
The villagers nigh all have fits,
And cry, "Lor' bless us! Gracious! it's—
Votes for Women!"

Raw firemen come to do their turn;
All they can do is watch the burn;
As there's no water for their pumps,
They whisper, standing there like chumps—
"Votes for Women!"

The ladies in their car speed on;
The people, hearing, cry, "They're gone!
Them was the ones set it alight!"
This is the peasants' last good-night—
"Vote for Women!"

There at the dawn, in ashes grey,
Burnt out the railway station lay,
Still bearing on the outward wall
The card writ with its clarion call—
"Votes for Women!"

OUR ADVICE.

We hear a lot nowadays about the scarcity of men who are capable of earning as much as £5 a week and the struggle for existence of the thousands of men who are not able to demand more than 30s. a week to keep their wives and families.

Although in a few cases "bad luck" may be the reason, there is no disguising the fact that every man has his future in his own hands, more or less, and it is the man who realises this fact that is constantly on the look-out for opportunities for safeguarding himself against unemployment and for improving his present wage by making himself worth more money to either his present employer or a fresh one. No matter what his present occupation is, he is the kind of man who says to himself, "I will lose no time in fitting myself to enter the Motor Industry, which is now in its infancy, and which offers by far the best chances to smart men, and I will call or write at once to the Motor Industry's training centre:—The British School of Motoring, Coventry House, 5 and 6, Coventry Street, Piccadilly Circus, W. (opposite the Prince of Wales Theatre, near Leicester Square), for their Free Illustrated Prospectus (J) on how to obtain instruction in Practical Motoring in my spare time and how to get a berth in the Motor Industry."

This is the kind of man who succeeds—he does not rely upon his present job or trade: he sees that he has two strings to his bow. He is the smart man—are you one also?

How to Get Rid of Catarrh.

A Simple, Safe, Reliable Way, and it Costs Nothing to Try.

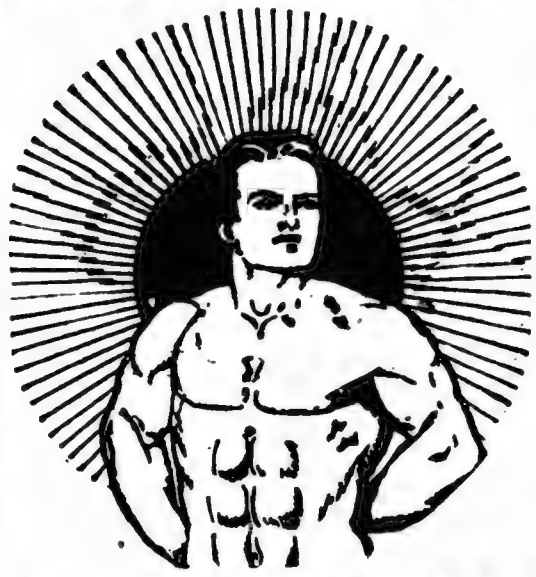
Those who suffer from catarrh know its miseries. There is no need of this suffering. You can get rid of it by a simple, safe, inexpensive, home treatment discovered by Dr. Blosser, who, for over thirty-six years, has been treating catarrh successfully.

His treatment is unlike any other. It is not a spray, douche, salve, cream, or inhaler, but is a more direct and thorough treatment than any of these. It cleans out the head, nose, throat and lungs so that you can again breathe freely and sleep without that stopped-up feeling that all catarrh sufferers have. It heals the diseased mucous membranes and arrests the foul discharge, so that you will not be constantly blowing your nose and spitting, and at the same time it does not poison the system and ruin the stomach, as internal medicines do.

If you want to test this treatment without cost, send your address to Dr. Blosser, Ltd. (Dept. 21B), 8, Bouverie Street, London, E.C., who will send you by return post enough of the medicine to satisfy you that it is all they claim for it as a remedy for catarrh, catarrhal headaches, catarrhal deafness, asthma, bronchitis, colds, and all catarrhal complications. They will also send you free an illustrated booklet. Write them immediately.

STOP DRUGGING

GET BACK TO NATURE.



Throw your half filled bottles of dope and poison into the garbage tin—they'll do less harm there than in your stomach. Get back to Nature; consider how she cures and give her the proper assistance. Nature needs strength and nourishment. Drugs are poisons and poisons don't give that.

If you are nervous you can quiet your nerves with poison, but just as soon as the stupor wears off the trouble returns worse than ever. Works like whisky. A man will fill up on liquor because it makes him feel good, puts false energy into him for awhile. But when the alcohol stops working his nerves torture him for more. Dosing weak nerves, weak stomach, liver or kidneys with drugs won't restore them to proper working order. Nature must have new energy, and you can get that only from electricity.

Our method of curing is to feed the nerves and vitals with nourishing, strength-building electricity. We do this with the "Ajax" Body Battery, which is entirely different from other electric appliances. It is invigorating and powerful, yet gentle and soothing to the nerves. It is an actual generator on the recuperative system, and requires no charging. It will cure every case of rheumatism, nervous debility, weak stomach, kidney and liver troubles, lame back, sciatica, varicocele, loss of power, and every evidence of weakness in men and women.

IT IS FREE.

Call for a free test if you can, or write at once for our 80 page illustrated book, which contains much valuable information regarding the cause and cure of disease. It is free, in a plain, sealed envelope. Write to-day.

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(Dept. 41), 25, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.

W. J. HARRIS & CO., LTD.

The Largest Baby Carriage Manufacturers in the World.

PRICES FROM 39s. 6d.

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Graceful Carriage. Coach painted in Claret, Dark Green or Navy Blue. Mounted on best Cee Steel Strap Springs. Upholstered with Sanitary Flock in Crockett Leather Cloth. Finished with best Brass Fittings. All kinds on Easy Terms.

Write for our No. 14 New Art Catalogue, Post Free.

Showrooms and Mail Order Department—

51, RYE LANE, LONDON, S.E.

The 'MASCOT.' 45/-

Complete with Apron.

Carriage paid.

No Extras whatever.

Crates free.

Wired-on Tyres.

BRANCHES:—22 & 24, Bedford-hill, Balham—No. 581, Battersea Park-rd., Clapham Junction—224, High-rd., Chiswick—17, George-street, Croydon—195, Rushey-green, Catford—No. 823, Edgware-road—59, Woodgrange-road, Forest Gate—28, North-street, Guildford—391, Mare-street, Hackney—63, Green-lanes, Harringay—36, Fife-road, Kingston—9, High-road, Lee (Lewisham Rd)—10, High-street, Notting Hill Gate—No. 219, Old Kent-road—126, Beckenham-road, Penge—62, Minster-street, Reading—62, Powis-street, Woolwich—5, Broadway-market, Wimbledon. Extensive Works, Haymerle-road, London, S.E.

AN OFFER TO READERS.

NEWSPAPER'S £5 NOTE.

An enterprising Journal recently offered a £5 note to the highest bidder, just to test the selling powers of the paper. Whilst the note was eventually disposed of for £4 10s., a number of applicants treated the offer as a huge joke.

A well-known firm of tailors, Messrs. H. Thomas & Co., of 142, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C., offer to make a Gent's Complete well-made Stylish Suit to measure for only **15s. 6d.** Whilst this offer, which is made only to "John Bull" readers, is no less startling than the paper's offer of a £5 note, it is perfectly honest, and made by a responsible firm.

The materials are good, which you can see before ordering as samples are sent free, and a guarantee is given that if not entirely satisfactory goods are given, money is returned in full.

Send a post-card or call to-day for patterns, measure chart, and fashion sheet. Mention "John Bull," for these **15s. 6d.** measure garments are essentially "John Bull" offers. See offer underneath

HOW MANY CONSUMPTIVES ARE RESTORED TO HEALTH.

The following valuable prescription written by an eminent specialist has enabled many lung sufferers to cure themselves in their own homes, without the use of powerful drugs or necessitating a change of climate. This recipe quickly relieves the cough and has a strong tonic effect which gives renewed strength to those who have become weak through prolonged illness. It can easily be prepared at home, and the treatment pursued quietly under natural conditions.

From your chemist get—1oz. Parmint (Double Strength), 2s. 6d. worth. Take this home and add to it 1 pint of hot water and 4ozs. granulated sugar. Stir until dissolved. Take 1 tablespoonful 4 times a day. This prescription has a wonderful soothing and healing effect upon the lungs, and its quick action has enabled many to regain health and strength after their case had seemed hopeless. Every person who has the slightest tendency towards lung troubles should try this recipe—there is nothing better.

A COMPLETE, UP-TO-DATE, GENT'S SUIT 15/6

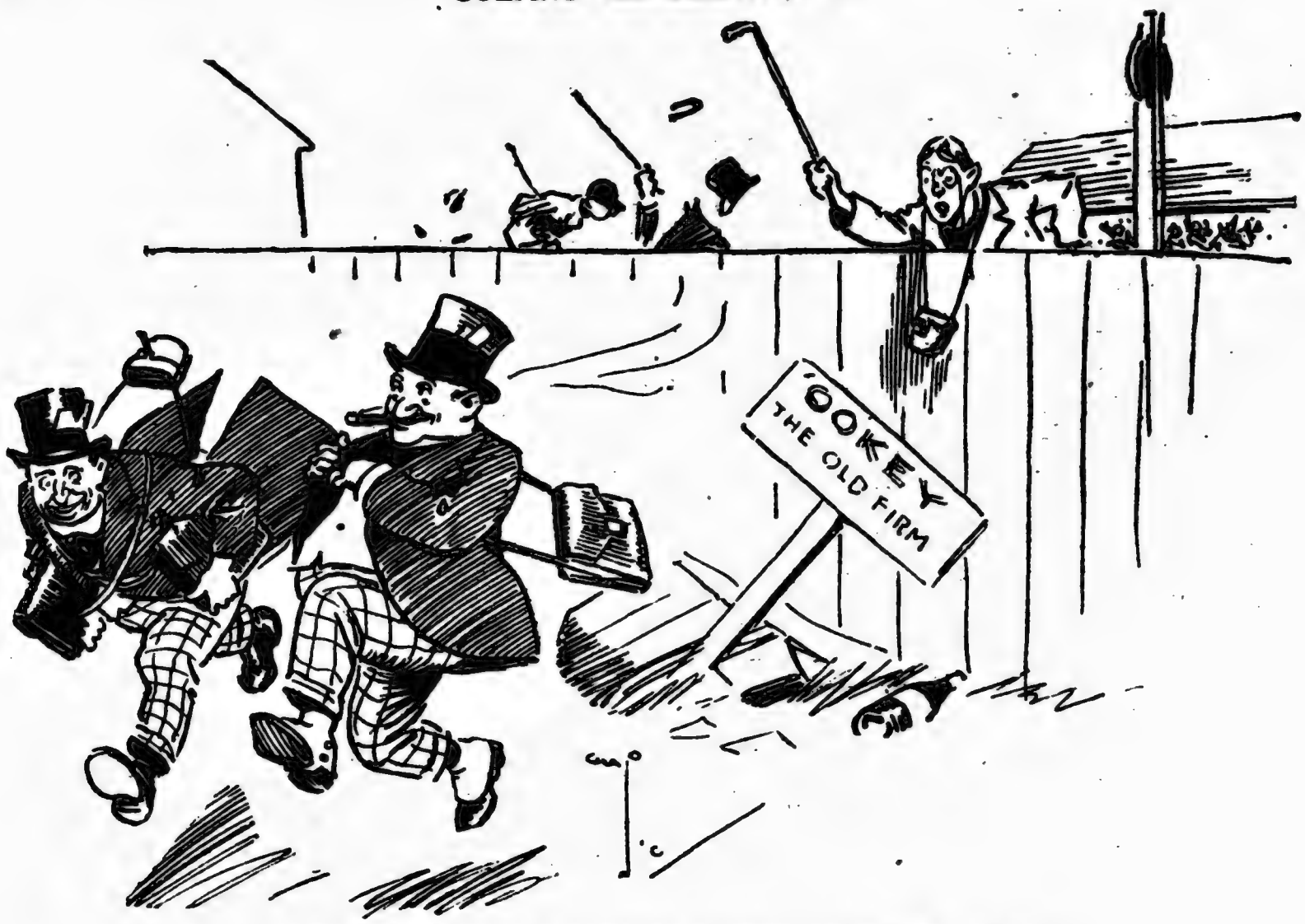
ADVERTISING OFFER TO "JOHN BULL" READERS.

We realise that to make you a customer we **must** go one better than our competitors, and with this object we will make "John Bull" readers a stylish, well-tailored Complete Suit for the absurdly low sum of **15s. 6d.—to measure, too, remember.** Other prices 19s. 6d., 23s. 6d., up to 40s.

Don't be sceptical. Realise that this is an **advertising offer absolutely,** and send us to-day **merely a postcard** for large range of patterns, measure chart, and fashion sheet. The materials will bear the closest scrutiny—then we fit you to **your** satisfaction or refund money. Why say more? Can we do more? Mention "John Bull" for when you see it there—**IT IS SO.**

H. THOMAS & Co., 142, Gray's Inn Rd., London, W.C.

GOLFING EXPRESSIONS—II.



"TWO TRICKY LITTLE BUNKERS SLOPING FROM THE GREEN."

FOOTLIGHT FACTS AND FAVOURITES.

By Irene Miller.

What an apallingly large dose of Shakespeare the public is being called upon to gulp down just at present! We cannot even escape him at the Music Halls! No one denies that it is delightful to find such a finished artiste as Miss Violet Vanburgh in the Coliseum programme, but there are degrees of delightfulness, and the superlative degree was surely not reached when her "turn" consisted of Lady Macbeth walking and talking in her sleep!

Shakespeare Spells Success.

Then we have Mr. Louis Calvert, under the auspices of the Pioneer Players, giving us his version of Hamlet's mental condition; Mr. Granville Barker just finishing up with "Twelfth Night," and making plans for "A Midsummer Nights' Dream" and "Macbeth"; that home of melodrama, the Prince's Theatre, going in for "Romeo and Juliet," whilst Mr. Forbes Robertson's Farwell-Season at Drury Lane consists largely of Hamlet, Othello and Shylock. And before we have had time to digest this, there will come the Shakespearean Season at His Majesty's—more Romeos and Hamlets, Othellos and Shylocks! Of course, I know that this complaint is in shocking bad taste; and it must be owned that it is really not to be wondered at that an intelligent public should be ready to see again and again and yet again, these old familiar dramas. In London Shakespeare is always made a spectacle of beauty and perfectly acted; but can we not have too much of a good thing?

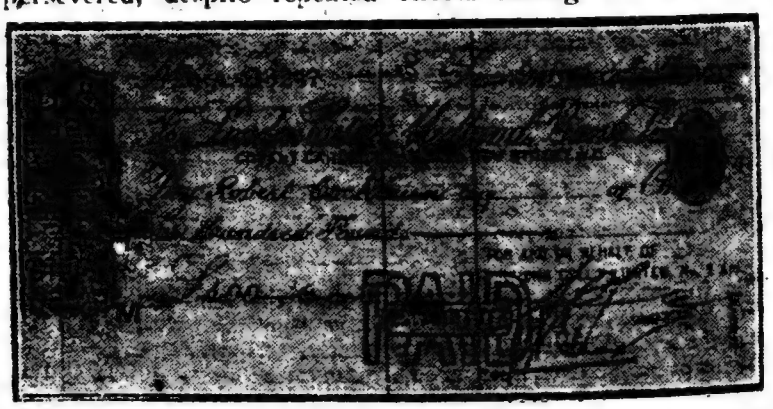
Fooling the Audience.

"Open Doors," at the St. James's Theatre, is a most exasperating play. The whole plot collapses at the end, like a house of cards, and everybody goes home disappointed. The last act requires re-writing.

OUR 22ND "BULLETS" WINNER.

£400 FOR A SCOTTISH SCHOOLMASTER.

Upon receiving the letter enclosing the cheque for £400, Mr. Robert Cockburn, the Falkirk schoolmaster, took (he tells us) "some time to realise all that it meant." His fellow-teachers were not long in testifying to the genuineness of the award and the popularity of its recipient. Mr. Cockburn, also, was one of those competitors who had persevered, despite repeated efforts failing to reach the



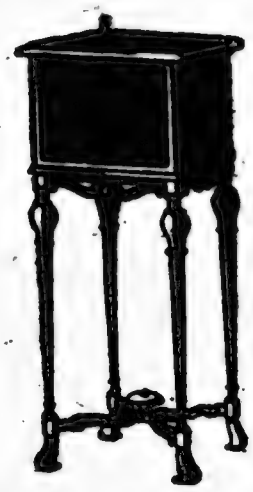
"bull's-eye"; he continued his exertions because, as he says, of having confidence in our system of judging. Though he was often told that it was waste of money to continue, as, in the opinion of these critics, "things went by blind chance," he realised that those who won deserved their success, and therefore studied to improve the quality of his efforts—with gratifying results.

The above cheque will be shown in the window of one of the principal local newsagents, and all readers living in the neighbourhood are invited to inspect it. It is seldom that a very large prize goes across the Border, so Mr. Cockburn will receive even wider congratulations than usually fall to the lot of a first prize "Bullets" winner.

"Bullets"—the Pastime Competition. Prizes value £1,770 weekly.

Fumed Oak Bureau Bookcase with fall front. 2 ft. 6 in. wide, 5 ft. 6 in. high, 15½ in. deep.

£3 . 3 . 0



Oak Palm Stand, finished antique style and caned sides, 3 ft. 1 in. high.

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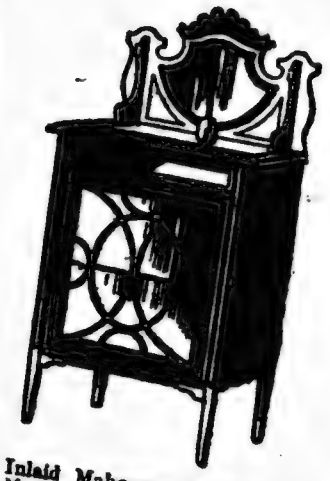

Inlaid Mahogany China or Music Cabinet. Bevelled Plate to back. 4 ft. 9 in. high, 1 ft. 11 in. wide, 13 in. deep.

£2 . 10 . 0

London's Leading Furnishers

If you contemplate furnishing, make a point of visiting the spacious showrooms of London's Leading Furnishers, The Midland Company in Southampton Row. Their huge stock is one of the most representative in London, and they are showing a fine range of perfectly equipped model flats at prices from £50 to £500.

The Company's Ideal Payment System enables you to furnish on terms to suit your own convenience. No extra charge is made for this. You pay only the plain marked prices. No deposit is asked and no interest is required

Oak Jacobean Style Bedroom Suite, finished a rich antique colour. Wardrobe 4 ft. 0 in. wide 6 ft. 7 in. high; Dressing Cabinet and Washstand 3 ft. 6 in. high.

£19 . 19 . 0

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Worth.	Per Month.	Worth.	Per Month.
£10 ...	£0 6 0	£50 ...	1 3 0
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Our elaborate complete Furnishing Guide, containing hundreds of illustrations and many coloured plates, is now ready. A copy will be sent free on request.

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Hours—9 till 8. Sats.—9 till 1.

No charge for credit.

Bull's Eyes.

Merely Rumours :—

That Tariff Reformers do not consider the game worth the Kendal.

That the Oxford crew are now looked upon as post-impressionists.

That owing to his temperance ideas, President Wilson will not even tolerate the Party Spirit.

That as the bakers' troubles are over, there will be no loafers out of a job.

That the Prince of Wales is going to Germany to study the Kaiser's language.

That owing to the burnt cork boom, even music-hall managers are working like niggers.

That the Progressives will find the new L.C.C. Chairman—Mr. Cyril Cobb—a bit of a nut.

* * *

Telegraphic Epigrams :—

There is a Courage only born of Insanity.

When Laughter comes in, Worry goes out.

A fortune that is missed, is not always a misfortune.

Unhappy is the man who left all his toys in the nursery.

A man may be in front of a procession without leading it.

Beauty is only skin deep; but many men are drowned in it.

It is too often possible to occupy a position without filling it.

A bunch of violets during lifetime, is worth all the wreaths in the world.

The man who wants a steam roller to crack a walnut, believes a cocoa-nut unbreakable.

There is a politeness bordering upon rudeness; and a suavity not far removed from hypocrisy.

Respect the man who practises his Religion in business; but beware of the man who parades it.

* * *

More Rapid Reviews :—

Concert Pitch.—Soon falls flat.

The Catfish.—Wants boiling down.

Requital.—Could not read quite all.

Lifted Curtains.—Very enlightening.

My Friend's Book.—Glad to return it.

Fanny's First Novel.—And last, we trust.

Adnam's Orchard.—Badly needs pruning.

The Finger of Mr. Blee.—Not worth cutting.

The Weaker Vessel.—The plot soon leaks out.

The Ware Case.—Distinctly a case of 'Ware!

Fire and Frost.—The author blows hot and cold.

Studies in Love and in Terror.—Very elementary.

Led Into the Wilderness.—Couldn't follow the author.

The Love Pirate.—Throws fresh light on the Jolly Roger.

The Amateur Gentleman.—Obviously not the work of a professional.

The Beloved Enemy.—We know the feeling: "How I love her, curse her!"

* * *

Novel Cookery Hints :—

Poached eggs should be kept clear of the copper.

Most things are very tender if touched on the boil.

A bladder of lard is always necessary for young hares.

Do not allow the gooseberry fool to see the scaled dressing.

A crusty tart can be made agreeable with a little sauce and a spoon.

A hair in the soup is bad taste: but eggs are improved with a whisker.

It is usual to see the sausage roll and the apple turn over after scrambled eggs.

When serving a fowl, don't put the parson's nose too near the devilled kidneys.

If you give your husband the cold shoulder, you must look for a little sauce.

Be careful when handling hot stuff. Even a slow oven can catch you on the quick.

For a Literary dinner, have a Longfellow to serve Crabbe and Lamb, with a little Bronwing.

* * *

A lobby gossip says the new session has been "born tired." It isn't that; it's the sleeping sickness.

* * *

Red-haired girls, it is said, always get married. Once more is the old truth exemplified, "Ginger for pluck."

* * *

This year marks the centenary of the top hat. We saw a man the other day wearing one that looked older than that.

* * *

"Three Important Brides," are announced in a society column. But every bride is important—to the bridegroom—at least during the honeymoon.

* * *

Mr. Andrew Boyle, the editor of an Encyclopædia, is only twenty-three years old. This is very, very young for an editor, but the poor fellow has plenty of time for reform.

"Sheep Worried," says a heading Did they smell the mint?

* * *

Strange, that when most people act the goat, they are taken for asses.

* * *

"Gardening by explosives," we read. We wonder what the gardener said?

* * *

The event won by Cross Baby at Leicester ought to have been a Nursery race.

* * *

"Skater in Divorce Court," reads a heading. Evidently not afraid of thin ice.

* * *

Whatever else is wrong, it is essential that a "nut's" hat should be the latest tile.

* * *

"Playing Billiards in Court," we read. Lawyers can always find the pocket.

* * *

An election address was recently given in a coal mine. An inappropriate place for gas.

* * *

Owing to terms being arranged, we had hot cross buns instead of hot cross bakers.

* * *

"Scent for nothing," we read. We hope the recipients won't have to pay through the nose.

* * *

"I dislike all drinks," says Bernard Shaw. We always suspected him of a dry humour.

* * *

"Fewer Scilly Flowers," we read. But what we should like to see would be fewer silly daisies.

* * *

English lavender is said to be twenty times more valuable than French. A big perscentage.

* * *

Candidates in the L.C.C. election spent about £80,000, but some of them got a good return for it.

* * *

It is costing Colchester Council 3d. per head for rat-killing. Aren't the ratepayers getting "ratty"?

* * *

The season is well forward, we are told. No wonder there are so many blooming chestnuts in Fleet Street.

* * *

A wife has been awarded £4,000 for the loss of her little finger. But many women have more round theirs.

* * *

"Gulls are a voracious tribe," says a contemporary. The human species, certainly, seem to swallow anything.

* * *

"All women who are not married, are miserable," says the West London magistrate. We know a few exceptions.

* * *

"I am speaking the truth by my eye and my hair," said a woman witness at Yarmouth. Easy for both to be false.

* * *

An M.P. said he would spend his Easter recess in bed. But members have been caught napping in the House itself.

* * *

Manchester tramways, which are to contribute £100,000 to the relief of the rates, are evidently run on the right lines.

* * *

The three actors who enlisted in the Army last year can at least boast that they have given "command" performances.

* * *

According to *The Times*, most of our playwrights and novelists belong to the middle-class. There are certainly few first-class.

* * *

"There is good in waiting; it excites desire," says Victor Marguerite. Yes, a desire to kick the person who makes you wait.

* * *

Dr. Mawson, wintering in the Antarctic, reports a breeze of fifty miles an hour all the time. No trouble to raise the wind out there.

* * *

A man who has tried the recommended "tumbler of water three times a day between meals," complains that there is nothing in it.

* * *

Only 8 per cent. of the women electors voted at the Wood Green C.C. election. The dear creatures only want a thing when they have not got it.

* * *

This spring reveals a boom in Emigration:
Exodus for Job—or Revelation?

Seen "Mary Bull" lately? Out on Friday next. Order it now.

GRAND NATIONAL

The drawing was supervised by the Special Representative of "John Bull" and by Mr. W. Lotinga, Editor of "Lotinga's Weekly," and for many years until recently "Larry Lynx" of "The People." These gentlemen wrote down and took away with them complete lists of the drawn numbers, together with the names and addresses of the winners.

£500 FOR THE WINNER.

£100 for the Second.

£50 for the Third.

The holder of each ticket drawing a starter can choose between having £5 in cash or a week's holiday in Switzerland with all travelling and hotel expenses paid. £2 for each ticket drawing a non-starter. 200 Consolation Prizes of £1 each. 500 Consolation Prizes of 10/- each. 2,000 Consolation Prizes of 5/- each. Note carefully the series letter and the number of each ticket. Also observe that the full postal address of each winner is given.

Name of Horse.	*No. of Ticket.*	*Purchaser's Name and Address.*
Rathnally	W 20421	J. Sayner, 33, Queen Victoria Street, The Mount, York.
Bedgrove	D 44145	G. Wall, 21, Malvern Hill Road, Nechells, Birmingham.
Carsey	P 19527	A. Elliott, 138, Porlman Buildings, Lisson Grove, N.W.
Irish Mail	O 24935	J. Parrish, 165, North Road, Clayton, Manchester.
Sandy	F 29756	D. Lewis, 19, Berw Road, Llwynypia, Rhondda.
Turco III.	W 72369	F. Mobbs, Rifle Drum, Northampton.
Diplomatist II.	F 20776	Mrs. Cain, Cottage Inn, Cannon Street, Bolton, Lancs.
Lord Rivers	S 67498	Mrs. Simpson, The Castle Inn, Castle Donington, near Derby.
Lady Slavey	R 81413	W. G. Middlemiss, 33, Albany Road Camberwell.
Bloodstone	R 54546	J. Dobson, Green Dragon, Burton, Westmorland.
Dark Deeds	W 64419	Vernon Wheldon, 22, St. James's St., Derby.
Still Spinning	W 21091	W. G. Searle, 100, First Avenue, Enfield.
Axle Pin	H 12746	Crispin Trufit, Anchor Hotel, Tintern.
Rhine-na-Shark	S 39147	H. Townsend, Newark Tavern, 59, Mill Lane, Leicester.
Prince Hugo	B 29838	W. Hayes, Barber's Arms, Rhodes, near Manchester.
Clondalkin	H 42279	Ethel Feilden, 69, Shakespeare Crescent, East Ham, Essex.
Melamar	D 63073	J. H. Chamberlain, Round Hill Road, Kettering.
Ballyhackle	B 57184	A. Johnson, 73, Garvan Road, Fulham, London, S.W.
Trianon III.	S 14797	C. W. Stephenson, Globe Inn, Shambles, York.
Piccaninny II.	C 96271	D. E. Masters, 23, Calderstones Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool.
Fetlar's Pride	L 43274	H. C. Peacock, Earl of Essex, 25, Danbury Street, Islington, London, N.
Thowlpin	H 25579	Mr. G. Marshall, 3, Jubilee Cottages, Lower Green, Esher.
Highbridge	T 57528	F. Elwese, 56, Chester Street, Sheffield.
Postman	D 22193	Mary Evans, 15, Elyne Rd., Stroud Green.
Fearless VII.	E 20343	D. Llewellyn, Penuel Green, Llansamlet, Swansea.
Merry Land	E 15209	N. Dickson, 215, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Great Cross	W 89858	J. H. Edwards, 59, Raynham Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.
Glenpatrick	D 46561	C. H. Evans, 81, Hargrave Park, Upper Holloway.
Covertcoat	E 26522	W. Hargrove, Royal Marine Infirmary, Deal, Kent.
Regent	B 21802	J. Thomas, 49, Nicholes Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.
Mavourneen's Ideal	E 5087	Br. Snip Taneer, 127 Btty R.F.A., Shorncliffe.
Twelfth Lancer	R 34790	F. W. Draper, 36, Bayham Street, Camden Town.
St. Mathurin II.	T 40786	Dr. E. Mansfield, A.S. Corps., P.O. College, Cambridge Bks., Woolwich.
Caubeen	A 72366	Mr. C. Wood, 16, Clifton Street, Gosport, Hants.
Midas	F 09977	Mrs. Parsons, 23, Weston Road, Littlehampton, Sussex.
Dysart	E 25872	Miss R. Blanden, 2, Drummond Street, Euston, London, NW.
Tokay	W 9489	W. H. Watson, 4, Chapel Row, Normanton Common, Yorks.
Jerry M.	H 9662	L. Hermes, 18, Bank Buildings, Purley, Surrey.
Jamagata	W 16562	Miss H. Pengelly, 16, Meadow Road, Shortlands, Kent.
Gold Brick	A 91523	F. Bateman, 8, Dean's Yard, Cavendish Square, London, W.
Shanawan	B 82513	F. Spinks, Downham Market.
Kilkeel	A 81423	Brinley Watkins, Double Row, Rhiw, Syr Dafydd, near Blackwood, Mon.
Fervent	O 88437	T. Ratcliffe, 41, Windsor Rd., Stockton-on-Tees.
Beaumanor	R 39825	C. Suttle, 11, Arthur St., Luton, Beds.
The Miner	A 74956	A. Camfield, 49, Johnson St., South Shields.
Blowpipe	E 47925	J. Boulton, 3, Thorp's Plot, Battle, Sussex.
Sir Halbert	D 1573	Mrs. H. Carmen, The Lodge, Threelands, Birkenshaw, near Bradford.
Victor Olympic	A 44538	Mrs. E. Key, 12, Market St., Poole, Dorset.
Black Plum	D 21391	C. Hyatt, 29, Archway Rd., Highgate, N.
Wavelet	O 61438	T. E. Bond, 54, Bartholomew Street, Newbury, Berks.
Whitelegs II.	L 48227	C. Meakin, Oxford Hotel, Oakengates, Salop.
Jacobus	H 35692	S. Gould, Alrewas, Burton-on-Trent.
Mystic Charm	O 88408	M. Donaldson, 72, Tarring St, Stockton-on-T.
Flaxseed	D 96875	F. Willey, "Bideford," Devonshire Road, Hornchurch, Essex.
Pompadour II.	A 82535	J. Hooper, High St, Williton, Som.
Olga's Pride	L 70047	P Braney, 59, Arlington St., Stockton-on-T.
The Rejected IV.	H 31902	J. H. Fox, 1, Morna Road, Denmark Hill, Camberwell.
Kindrogan	C 20992	J. Scott, 9, Everton Crescent, Liverpool.
Ballymacad	B 69023	W. U. Stow, c.o. A. R. Angus, Glenmore House, Minehead.
Bridge IV.	D 56135	H. F. Gotts, Rockland, Attleborough.
Ridley	P 10698	O. B. Williams, 1, Erith Street, South Street, Liverpool.
Foolhardy	C 64321	W. J. Williams, 57, Crooke Rd., Deptford.
Another Delight	M 77916	R. W. Guteridge, 36, St. Leonard's Road, Windsor.

H. DIAMOND, Lucerne, Switzerland.

Letter Postage, 2½d. Postcards, 1d.

John Bull's Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when writing regarding previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag,"* AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

CORRESPONDENTS desiring INFORMATION *should place their questions in* CONCISE *form and refrain from sending* VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTS, *at any rate until asked for them. The Editor is quite unable to devote the time necessary for perusing and considering the scores of folios which correspondents sometimes send.*

For Financial and Insurance Replies, see page 468.
For Sporting Replies, see page 472.

R. W. G. (Attleborough) and MANY OTHERS write to enquire whether the "immediate retirement" of Sir Percy Scott from the Navy is in any way due to our recent articles? Of course not—mere coincidence—that is all!

MRS. B. A. D. (Anerley) sends us the following new version of Byron's lines, appearing on our cover:—

The world's *like* a bundle of hay;
Mankind *like* to asses who pull it;
Though each tug it a different way,
Their goal is to win a "John Bullet."

Not B.A.D.!

MESSRS. A. J. ADCOCK AND CO. (21, Cannon Street, Manchester), Wholesale Fent and Remnant Merchants, wish to be dissociated from the British Supply Stores, whose office is in the same building.

K. A. (Batley) warns us that "General Bramwell Booth does not mean to put up with our impertinence, like his father did, and is only waiting for his chance to sit on us." What is his weight?

F. D. (St. Petersburg) sends us the "Weekly Cinema" cut from our issue of March 1st, showing that the Censor of News had thought it necessary to blot out the little block entitled "The Swashbucklers," and containing the following lines:—

To Austria the Russian Czar
Conveys, by hints, a threat of war;
And Edward Grey's pacific schemes
Seem likely to dissolve in dreams.

How annoyed Sir Percy Scott and others must be that we have no Press Censor over here!

M. A. (Weymouth) sends us the following terrible "Chestnut": Miss *Virginia, Iowa* debt to Uncle Sam for *Tobago, Masachusits* you know, I am going to see Queen *Maryland* in *Staten Island* home, then I will *Seattle* down. Will you come?

D. J. D. (Herne Hill).—As we have frequently stated, we are not medical experts, and are consequently not in a position to express an opinion as to the merits of Mr. Elmer Shirley's treatment for deafness, but we are assured that he is always prepared to abide by his offer to refund any fees paid, provided the terms of his contract are complied with.

C. M. (Pontefract).—You are quite right in assuming that the £10,000 prize-money in the JOHN BULL Derby Sweepstake is absolutely guaranteed, and that this fact differentiates it from the Bouveret Club Sweep, in which we anticipate the prizes will be extremely small. For all further information you must apply to Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Geneva, Switzerland, which is sufficient address.

T. C. (Port Arthur, Ontario Canada), writes us regarding the comparatively low wages paid to workers on the C.P. Railway, and says that in his part of Canada "living is twice as dear as in England," so that the 55 dollars a month he received as freight clerk in the company's service was only equal to the spending power in England of 25s. a week.

F. E. (Byfleet) sends us a postcard to say "they have not kicked or starved me out of Byfleet yet, but it's not their fault." What is it then—their misfortune?

C. G. (Devonport).—Peddling private greeting cards without a peddlar's licence is illegal, and persons convicted of this horrible crime may be fined 10s. for the first offence.

"CHRISTABEL" (Batley) tells us she has a friend who is highly indignant with us because we have failed to answer twelve questions, covering four sheets of foolscap, which he submitted for our consideration eight months or so ago. He has forgotten what the questions were. So have we.

T. B. (Taynuilt).—You need neither keep in your house a servant who is too ill to perform her duties, nor pay the full or any wages; but *please* don't let the Insurance Act, or anything else, spoil your good nature.

MRS. A. H. (Alberta, Canada).—The English papers are eloquent in corroboration of your warning that Canadian towns are now swarming with real estate sharks. We certainly share your opinion that "the English are too trusting and honest." Some of the pigeons who are being plucked in England to stuff the pillows of the Canadian land boosters forget the words of the great poet, "After the rise the fall, after the boom the slump; after the fizz and the fat cigar, the headache and the hump."

H. H. (Vancouver) says: "It is just the same every year from October to March. There are thousands out of work, and unless one is lucky enough to be an inside man he has to suffer; 80 out of every 100 who come from England to the Golden West have to suffer more than they have ever done at home." Hard cheddar.

S. A. S. (Colne) asks us to help him to recover an estate of £44,000. He says, "I have no money to spend on law." Unfortunately, neither have we. He threatens to send us a copy of the Will, but we hope he won't.

J. D. (Great Grimsby).—You cannot compel a solicitor, or anyone else, to reply to a letter—not even if you put a stamped addressed envelope inside for the purpose.

"ADMIRER" (Leeds).—We daresay Victor Hugo's observations on Fate and Destiny were original, so far as it is possible for any philosophical observations to be original; but in abstract wisdom there is nothing new under the sun. Our favourite metaphors are the mixed ones we have so frequently heard and enjoyed in the House of Commons. And that is all the space we can spare you.

T. A. B. (Retford).—If, as you say, the Vicar forgot to attend the burial of your son, after being advised three times of the date, and if, in consequence, the boy was buried by the Cemetery caretaker, who simply read the Lord's Prayer over him, we think that from one point of view it was a disgraceful piece of business. But, on the other hand, we would beg you to take comfort. If there be any efficacy in prayers for the dead, the simple utterance of the honest caretaker was more likely to find favour than the most elaborate ritual pronounced by such a cleric as the one you describe.

A. H. E. (Camden Town).—So far as we can see, all that your life-saving device for motor-'buses would do would be to put the brakes on when it touched a pedestrian. But that is what the driver is supposed to do *beforehand*.

C. W. L. (Bolton).—Thanks for your offer, but as the incidents you mention occurred some years ago, and as pretty well everybody knows by this time that music-hall hypnotism is a fraud, we cannot spare space to publish your experiences, although, we have no doubt, their perusal would be entrancing.

"MAC" (Dublin).—If you will request your informant who charged us with crediting Glasgow with 30,000 fallen women to call on us, we will invite him to tread on the tail of our coat. We cannot tell you the numbers engaged in that most ancient profession in the various cities of the United Kingdom. Can't you find it in the Census Returns?

C. C. M. (Cartwright Gardens, W.C.) writes:—"I have no need to congratulate myself, being a medical man, on Mr. D. Lloyd George being Chancellor of the Exchequer. Still, I feel thankful to think that he was not appointed to the Foreign Office, as in that case he would have plunged the country into war." H'm! think so? What about Birmingham Town Hall?

"OLD WELSH READER" (Bridgend).—Close your ears to the tempting offer of the Globe Supply Co., of Bow Street, Sheffield, and heed *Bot's Weekly* not at all. You can guess what it is they both want?

H. M. (Bloomsbury).—You are quite at liberty to marry your first cousin, provided she is willing.

Our First "Bullets" Prize Increased to £450 this week.

The Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Imperial Merchant Service Guild assure us that it is not a fact, as stated by "Mercantile Marine," that this paper has been boycotted by the Guild. As a matter of fact, they say, every senior member of the staff is a constant subscriber, whilst on Thursday there are always three or four copies at headquarters. They point out that, with an institution such as the Guild (which represents more than half the certificated officers in the merchant service), there are bound to be some malcontents, but at the recent annual meeting, at which there was a packed attendance, there was a remarkable display of confidence in the Management Committee and the Executive. In the words of the Secretary, "To John Bull our feelings err upon the side of gratitude, if we err at all, for you have given us kindly words of sympathy and encouragement which have been most helpful."

I. H. (Coleraine) asks us to send him a few points to prove that the general increase of money has a bad effect on morals and religion. It would be easier for us to send him points to prove that the *want* of money is the root of most evil.

N. S. (Leeds).—We believe the South African Colonisation Society, of 23, Army and Navy Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W., is quite all right. Anyhow, you will know for sure when you get out there.

T. E. (Gainsborough).—We have read your verses, for which we thank you. We are sure you mean well.

F. W. (Manchester) suggests that we should devote a little attention to the cotton-waste dealer, whose ways of acquiring wealth, it seems, are extensive and peculiar. Is "F. W." sure it would not be a waste of time?

"Dynamo" (Dublin) complains of his treatment by the Economic Electric Company, of Twickenham. He states that he ordered goods from their catalogue early in the New Year, enclosing the necessary cash, but has received neither goods nor acknowledgment, although he has written them repeatedly. It sounds as though the company were Economic in more senses than one.

S. H. (Monmouthshire) takes us to task for our exposure of Sir Percy Scott, and tells us that, in his opinion, "Lord Charles Beresford and Lord Roberts are a pair of scaremongers, and ought to be detained in a lunatic asylum." Sh!

C. W. (Eastbourne) wants us to print our John Bull League speeches in this journal. Perhaps some day we will enlarge our size for the purpose.

E. O. (Exeter).—We cannot remember at the moment the exact sum J. Ramsay Macdonald receives for his services on the Indian Commission, but you may safely take it that it is more than they are worth.

G. C. F. (Notting Hill, W.).—The circular you send us, received from the "Central Bureau," Silver Arcade, Leicester, asking for 1s. 6d., looks very much like the dodge practised by the Central Advertising Agency, of 73, Cricketfield Road, London, N.E., who also asked for 1s. 6d. for particulars of a scheme for making money at home. We have put it in the w.p.b. for you.

"A Free (?) Briton" (Holland Park, W.) asks: "Is England to be a police-ridden country?" and proceeds to relate an unpleasant experience which leads him to think that it is. But we think that the fact of his making his protest shows that it is not.

Mrs. F. P (W. Croydon).—You have merely been taken in by one of the innumerable "Bale of Drapery by Instalments" sharks. We can't sympathise with you. A thrifty housewife would insist on seeing the goods before parting with a pound of her husband's (presumably) hard-earned money.

M. S. (Middlesex Street, E.).—We have always said that the only way to put a stop to the sweating of machinists is for them to form a union. Why don't you do it? We can't.

E. A. R. (March) inquires "if youngest or oldest son is *Heir* in Godmanchester, Hunts and Oblige." What has Godmanchester done that the ordinary law of inheritance should not apply to those that dwell therein? We know not.

E. M. A. (Arundel).—Lloyd's offer to present you with "the works of Charles Dickens in 21 volumes gratis and free of any charge whatever," on condition that you pay up the balance of your instalments in a lump sum seems a good one—if genuine.

S. B. E. (Hornchurch) writes: "I cannot help feeling." Why make us the repository of his confessions?

A. S. H. G. (East Ham) sends us some very complimentary verses, the *spirit* of which we greatly appreciate. But when he concludes with the lines:—

'Tis a far, far better thing I do
Than I have ever done before,

we shudder to think what his previous efforts have been like.

"Family" (Hove).—The blacksmith is a privileged person.

J. T. A. W. (Gold Coast) wants to become our Correspondent at Seccondee, but we have hundreds there already.

"Cripple" (Hayward's Heath).—It does not cost anything to write to the Law Society complaining of a solicitor's conduct, but what is your grievance? The solicitor writes asking if you will accept a certain sum in full settlement of your claim to compensation. You reply agreeing. It now turns out that your injuries are more serious than you thought, and you, therefore, wish to charge the solicitor with improper conduct, and without any evidence allege that he must have been in collusion with the other side. You must put up with your bad bargain, and learn to be just—even to solicitors.

"Anxious Scot."—Hapgoods, of the Strand, are quite respectable.

"An Admirer" (Eastleigh) sends us a County Court summons he has received for the sum of 5d., being a disputed item in connection with the carriage of a parcel, and points out that, in order to fight the case, he would have to take a long journey and incur considerable expense. The law is a ass!

J. H. (Renfrew).—You are a bad loser, and hypercritical. When we want you to lend a hand at judging "Bullets" we will let you know.

G. M. (London, N.W.) sends us a copy of a note sent by a mother to a school teacher to explain her son's absence: "Dear Sir, Please excuse James staying away this morning as his sister has an increase. I shall see that it does not occur again.—Mrs. H. J." Quite right too.

"Leith Wull" (Leith) concludes an interesting letter with the following affecting words: "Noo Maister Editur ma hemmast wish is that yir lum may lang reek, that ye desairve it for ye'r a clinker an' that's nae lee. Cuid nicht & joy be wi' ye." "Leith Wull" may depend upon our lum reeking for some considerable time yet.

"Concerned" (Louth).—Of course the landlord can give you notice personally. Whoever told you he was legally compelled to employ an agent for such a purpose was "pulling your leg."

E. P. (Darlington).—Your daughter does not come within the Insurance Act until she is 16 years of age; then, if she is still an apprentice and not earning any wages, she need not insure.

"Primrose."—Your question depends entirely on the wording of the will. Send us a copy and we will advise you.

W. S. (Cardiff).—Your friend, who has had a "hot argument" with you, alleging that the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill never became law should now proceed to cool his head under the pump. He is wrong.

W. P. (Ross).—Our opinion has already been expressed that Knowles's Psycho Success Club is preposterous money-making humbug.

F. E. (Byfleet) asks us to give him "a personal interview," for the purpose, apparently, of discussing his private domestic troubles. We fear that the personal worries of F. E. do not come under the category of "matters of public interest." Why doesn't he consult the other "F. E."?

E. P. (Llanfairfechan).—If you fancy there is property in Chancery to which you are entitled, employ a solicitor to collect evidence and take the necessary proceedings. After that—well, remember Jarndyce *v.* Jarndyce.

Mrs. R. B. (Nr. Belfast) recently stayed at a small town in Ireland, and on departing one item on her bill was

"One haporth of Milk. 2d."

Did this occur at Derry, by any chance? We are sorry we cannot spare our fair correspondent one of our biscuits to go with the milk.

S. T. (Borough).—If you do not have your child vaccinated, you are liable to a fine of 20s., but if you conscientiously believe that vaccination would be prejudicial to the child's health, you may obtain exemption by making a statutory declaration to that effect, and sending it to the vaccination officer of your district. You may make the declaration before a solicitor, who is a commissioner of oaths, who is entitled to a fee of 1s. 6d.; before a J.P. at his residence, when no fee is payable; or in a magistrate's court.

"L'Herbe Fletrie" (Burnley).—In our opinion, literary agents are of small use except to established authors, who have so much writing to do that it is worth their while to pay others to transact their business for them.

J. S. L. (Brighton).—Let us see the book, "Picture Plays and How to Write Them," which you allege to be illiterate.

"Anxious."—Don't worry about the fact that the birth certificate which you have to produce for proof of age contains a name you have dropped for twenty years. The Insurance Company may agree to leave it out in the policy, if you ask them.

(A large number of replies are held over.)

An Opportunity that may never occur again. See page 465.

THE EVERLASTING MERCY.

By RICHARD MORTON.

The clergyman had preached an eloquent sermon on the goodness of Heaven, telling his hearers how thankful they ought to be for all the prizes of life that came to them. It was a fine sermon, and it went home to all hearts; every member of the congregation was uplifted, if only for a time, into a state of gratitude for the good things Providence had provided.

Even the clergyman himself, when he went home to his rectory, with its cosy, spacious rooms, its garden and its glebe—even the clergyman, after a luxurious dinner nicely served, retired to his study and his easy chair and felt most devoutly thankful for them and for his usual forty winks.

Old Marbles, the moneylender, who went to the City every day except Sunday, and would have gone on Sunday as well if there had been any business doing, was much affected by the discourse. He drove, after it, in his car to his mansion, and rendered thanks for his discreet, well-trained and obsequious servants, for his halls of luxury, his pictures, statuary, miniatures, and precious porcelain. He was thankful for his gems of art, not because they were gems of art, but because they were valuable and he had got them cheap.

And after he had gone over his books, which was all the business he could do on a Sunday, after he had ascertained that the balance on the right side stood at a more thumping figure than ever, why, then he recognised what the preacher had meant about the goodness of Heaven, and he felt more truly thankful than ever he had done in his life before.

Polly Bates, from the farm, let the clergyman's words sink into her brain, and was full of a deep and an abiding gratitude. For there sat Joe Mavis just across the aisle, and she was glad because Joe was hers and she was Joe's. And Joe would wait outside for her, and walk back to the farm with her across the meadows. Ah! she had much to be thankful for, had Polly Bates.

William Cobbles, the shoemaker, was in black, for his brother had been dead only a few weeks. William had gone to church trying to look very sad, in keeping with his mourning, but the sermon had moved him to a great joy. Besides, his brother had left over two hundred pounds, and it all came to William. So William sang the Doxology with a happy heart.

Mrs. Flitters also drank in the lesson of gratitude. She was wearing a new hat, and a new costume, and that stuck-up Mrs. Merrion was in her old things still.

Mrs. Merrion returned thanks because Mrs. Flitters' costume didn't fit, and because her own costume, coming home next week, was much more fashionable, much better, and much more expensive.

* * * * * * *

The faded, weary, stricken woman by the river bank had not heard the sermon, but she realised the Everlasting Mercy, and knew that she still had something to be thankful for.

Ill, starved, without a penny, without a crust, without a friend, despised of fortune, spurned by man, forsaken by woman, she crept down the bank to the verge of the sullen water.

Life? What had life been for her? Hunger, misery, sin; sin, misery, hunger; cruelty, pain, and despair. She took a last look at the world.

"Thank God!" she said. "Thank God . . . for the river."

MR. CREW OF TETBURY.

Mr. T. S. Crew, J.P., of Tetbury, a local churchwarden, we believe, is making a name for himself. Within nine days he has sent five men to gaol for the heinous crime of begging—in each case fourteen days' hard labour. The difference between this tender-hearted magistrate and the tender-hearted Home Secretary, therefore, is this; the one puts people in gaol because they haven't any food to eat, and the other lets them out because they won't eat wher they have.

John Bull League Notes.

(By the General Secretary.)

Under the heading of "The Man and the Message," "Bristolian" sends me the following impression of the President's recent meeting at Bristol:—

"There's a great deal in him and in what he says about Business Government." This was the remark I heard as I left the Colston Hall after the meeting of the Bristol Branch of the JOHN BULL League on Friday, and it must have expressed the opinion of most of the members of the large audience which braved miserably inclement elements to hear the President's speech. Of a truth, few could listen to the Man and pay heed to his message without being strongly impressed by both.

"A plain, blunt man," the President called himself. But other adjectives suggested themselves as he stood there sketching in outline a picture of that future to which more and more are turning their faces in the sure and certain hope of a better and brighter era in our National and Imperial history. Plainness and bluntness of speech there was, certainly, but there was infinitely more. There was the suggestion of strength, of confidence, and above all of unswerving, unconquerable conviction. It was irresistibly borne upon one that here was no idle iconoclast, breaking down long-cherished idols in mere wantonness; no modern Don Quixote tilting at windmills for the fun of the thing. No, here was a Man with a faith as deep and a spirit as unflinching as ever supported martyr to the stake or sufferer for conscience sake. It was this sincerity of purpose, this loyalty to a high ideal, combined with the significance and import of the Message, that captured and controlled the attention and interest of the audience.

THE MESSAGE.

What of the Message? Mr. Bottomley is no stranger to a Bristol audience, but he has never previously made out his case so strongly as on this occasion. Indictment after indictment was levelled against the present Party system, and every count was enumerated, elaborated and driven home clearly and convincingly. Personal experiences in the House of Commons, the anomalies in filling Government offices, the vagaries of the Party Press, the "official" attitude towards the German menace, the mythical Board of Trade, the political juggling with the fiscal question, the treatment of the education question—all this and more supplied abundant evidence upon which to condemn "this old-fashioned, rusty, effete" Party system. And the audience expressed their approval of the verdict. And then came those sound, convincingly-reasoned arguments in favour of a Business Government—"By Business Government we mean that the business of the nation shall be managed upon business principles, that the House of Commons shan't be a mission hall, that the politician shan't be a parson, that the head of every department in the State shall be somebody who really understands of his own knowledge and experience the business of that department." "When the historian of the future tells the story of the early days of the twentieth century, unexaggerated as I have told it, won't he stand aghast?" And so he went on, this preacher of a new gospel to his day and generation, this prophet of a fuller, freer, nobler, and purer life.

PORTSMOUTH.—All roads lead to the magnificent Town Hall on Friday night. The doors will be thrown open at 7 p.m., and from that time until 8 p.m. Mr. A. E. Saxbey will delight the waiting audience with an organ recital. I am at the Grand Central Hotel, Commercial Road, and have just a few tickets left, should any Portsmouth reader or League member require them. A number of stewards will be wanted for the meeting, and I shall be glad if all who are willing to assist in this direction will write me at the hotel at once. In view of recent developments in connection with the Scott-Beresford incident there is sure to be a huge gathering, and the President is certain of a great reception.

MANCHESTER.—Members are requested to be sure and attend the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, April 3rd, at the Coal Exchange, Market Street. Councillor Ross Clyne will preside, and will deliver an address on the work of the League. I hope to be there to say a few words upon the President's tour.

(*For Form of Application for Membership*, see page 472.)

Pastime and Profit is provided by "Bullets." Over 5,000 Prizes weekly.

HURRY UP! SEND IN YOUR ENTRIES NOW.

FOR ALL FORECASTS CORRECT	FOR NEAREST FORECASTS SHORT OF FULL NUMBER	FOR NEXT HIGHEST CORRECT FORECASTS	FOR THE NEAREST LADY COMPETITOR
£7 A WEEK FOR LIFE	£750 CASH (MUST BE WON)	£400 CASH (MUST BE WON)	£100 CASH LADIES' PRIZE (MUST BE WON)

4 DISTINCT PRIZES | £1,250 MUST BE WON!

As the Football season 1912-13 is approaching its end, we have decided to set up a record. Accordingly we announce a new competition in which we offer **four distinct Pension and Cash Prizes** as above. No other journal of any kind at any time has ever made such an amazing prize offer.

All you have to do is to forecast the Results of the matches to be played on **Saturday, April 12th,** given on the entrance form to be found on the inside of our front cover. Draw your pen through the team you think will lose; if you predict a draw, do not cross out either team.

The £7 a week for Life will be paid to the Competitor sending us an entrance form containing correct forecasts of the matches given, *played to a finish*, EVEN IF THE NUMBER BE ONLY 10 OR 12.

Abandoned Matches make no Difference.

In the event of no entrance form being received giving the whole of the correct results, **£750 in cash** will, *in any event*, be paid to the competitor sending the most correct forecasts short of the full number.

NO GOALS REQUIRED.

£400 in cash, as a further prize, will also be awarded to the sender of the *next* highest number of correct forecasts, and **£100 in cash** will be paid to the *lady* whose coupon gives more correct forecasts than that of any other lady competitor.

Thus even if the £7 a week for life is not won, and we shall be disappointed if it is not, we shall in **any event still award the £750, £400, and the £100.**

You can send in as many entries as you like, and any number may be enclosed in the same envelope. Friends can send their entries together in one envelope, but every coupon must be signed by the person making the forecast.

£100 CASH FOR LADIES ONLY.

The RULES and **COUPON** will be found ON THE INSIDE of FRONT COVER.

LADIES' PRIZE.

Ladies are specially invited to enter. They have the same chance as men in winning one of the chief prizes, but in any event £100 will be paid to the lady sending most correct forecasts.

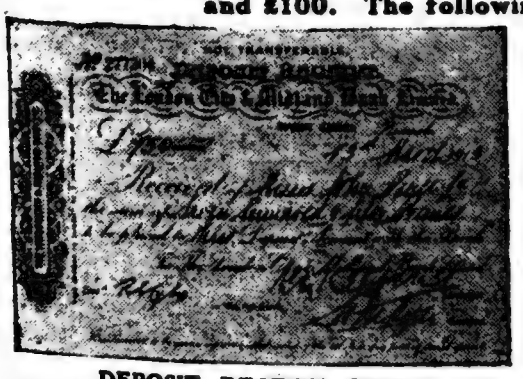
The competition is one of pure skill, and competitors should make a point of studying the football column of the daily papers.

Send in your Entries NOW.

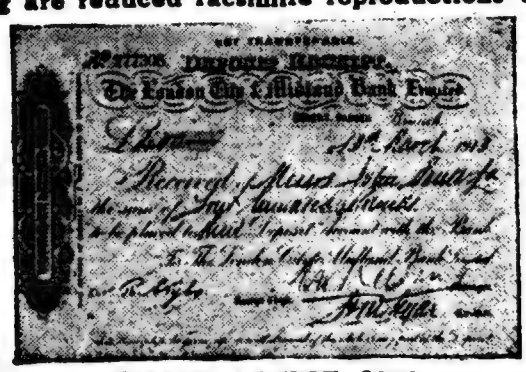
NO ENTRANCE FEES.

THE MONEY IS WAITING AT THE BANK FOR YOU.

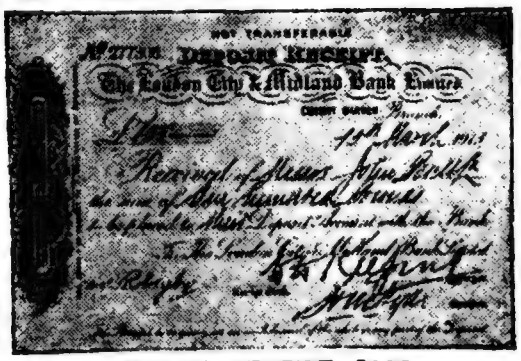
We have deposited with our Bankers the three separate cash sums of £750, £400, and £100. The following are reduced facsimile reproductions of the banker's receipts.



DEPOSIT RECEIPT £750.



DEPOSIT RECEIPT £400.



DEPOSIT RECEIPT £100.

THE BIGGEST THING EVER DONE IN FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS.

After you have filled up your entries for this competition, turn to page 470, where you will find particulars of "Bullets," a simple and attractive Competition which you should not fail to enter. A first prize of £450 in cash is offered this week, in addition to more than 5,000 cash and other prizes to the value of £1,770. But, for particulars of "JOHN BULL" Derby Sweepstake, you must write to "Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Geneva, Switzerland" (postage 2½d.).

CITY NOTES.

[*For Financial and Insurance Replies, see page 468.*]

The Stock Markets.

There has been some more liquidation during the few working days, chiefly from the North, where the Scotch banks have been turning out Chartered and other South African shares, as is their custom when prices have fallen. The Continental centres, however, have been steadier, despite the assassination of the King of Greece and the Ministerial crisis in Paris. Now that the Easter holidays are over, we are within a few days of the end of the quarter, when money should get easier, at all events in London. Consols have already been put up, in anticipation of large purchases in connection with the new Sinking Fund of 4½ millions sterling, but another object lesson has been given with regard to the rush of new issues, in that the underwriters for the New South Wales Loan had to take 60 per cent. of the issue. Several more Colonial Loans, however, are said to be ready for issue almost at once. Home Rails continue dull, and Yankees have been very weak, finally, however, receiving support in Wall Street, resulting in Bear closing. The latest move of the U.S. Government will apparently be dissolution proceedings against the American Smelting Company. Canadian Pacifics have been steadier, which would point to a cessation of liquidation in Berlin. South African Mines have been weak on the realisations above referred to, and Rubber shares are flat again, as was anticipated in this column. Amongst Oil shares, the heavy fall of Ural Caspian from 2½ to 2 was a feature, and it was curious that this fall came a few days before the announcement of the trouble with shifting sand and water in the wells. This relapse has cast a gloom over Oil shares generally, which should, however, soon wear off. The directors of the Anglo-Continental Company had a *mauvai quart d'heure* at last Wednesday's meeting of shareholders, and only saved themselves by proxies. Some of the other Nigerian companies, however, appear to be doing well. Barriers have had a severe fall on Colonial sales, and are only slowly righting themselves. The visible supply of copper in Europe has decreased by 1,000 tons during the first half of March, but as long as the New York market generally is so unsettled, copper is not likely to improve.

Consolidated Oilfields of South Africa.

As will be gathered from another page, matters are now proceeding apace in connection with this company. Mr. Mills-Davies, the eminent South African geologist, who recently started for the company's properties, has already located the first boring sites. Those acquainted with Mr. Mills-Davies' position and reputation will appreciate the significance of this, and we have little doubt that when the official announcement is made that the necessary machinery has been acquired with a view to the commencement of boring operations there will be a considerable demand for the shares of the Company. Indeed, we gather from a circular just issued by the pioneers of the scheme, the South African Petroleum Exploration Syndicate, that an active market is about to be made, and that after the end of the present month no shares will be obtainable except at a premium We reiterate once more our opinion that at anything in the neighbourhood of par the shares of the Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa represent the pick of the oil market.

Renewing Accident Policies.

We are constantly receiving complaints from readers that, after paying premiums for years on accident policies, the companies have declined to renew them. We have, of course, pointed out to our correspondents that such policies are merely yearly contracts, just as are fire insurances, and that a company is entitled to refuse to renew at their expiration. In many instances, however, this would appear to inflict a hardship upon a careful and thrifty section of the community. Take the case of one of our correspondents, who states he is seventy years of age and has been paying premiums for twenty-five years, only to find that the company in which he is insured will accept no more. In these days of the deadly motor-'bus, and with sight, hearing and bodily activity perhaps impaired, surely the necessity for provision against accident is greater than ever in a case such as this. Why should not the company charge a slightly increased premium to cover the extra risk, just as a fire insurance company would if we were to store petrol in our offices? We commend the suggestion to their serious consideration.

Bank of Egypt.

It will be good news for shareholders to hear that there is some probability of their receiving a refund of, at any rate, a portion of the call made upon them since the collapse of this concern, and every credit is due to Mr. Brougham, the Official Receiver, and Sir William Plender, for having conserved and dealt with the assets in so efficient a manner as to be able to provide for the payment of all trade creditors in full. We trust, however, that, as so often pointed out in these columns, the satisfactory results of the liquidation will not prevent energetic steps being taken to lay the collapse of the Bank on the proper shoulders. The principle which shareholders should enforce in the Law Courts is in no way affected by the fact that the liquidation has been conducted in a business-like manner.

Exit Hawthorne & Co.

The prosecution of the Hawthorne Silver and Iron Mines boodlers came to the expected end last week, when the principals in the frauds were convicted in New York and duly punished. The prosecution has been pending for fifteen months, but justice has been done at last. Hawthorne was a journalist and Dr. Morton a nerve specialist, and their association, under the direction of a man named Freeman, the arch-conspirator, who was sentenced to five years' imprisonment, was a stroke of genius. Morton played upon the nerves of the foolish public, Hawthorne produced the literature and Freeman pulled the strings. We warned our readers against the swindle at the time efforts were being made, under the auspices of Frank Sherwood Gray, of Radium Ore Mines renown, to peddle out the worthless shares over here, and we are pleased to think that we were the means of saving many from being robbed.

Re-Insurance and Guarantee Corporation.

The public enquiry into the affairs of this concern, which acted as a kind of prop to the Law Car and General, was adjourned the other day for the attendance of Mr. Charles John Fowler, late managing director of both companies. Mr. Fowler was permitted to escape from this country when he should have been detained pending these proceedings, and as he has been allowed to remain at large in the Argentine Republic for over a year, we do not think that he will ever be made to face the music here. More's the pity—and scandal!

Kent Collieries.

We learn that a majority of the debenture holders in this country have agreed to accept payment of the arrears of interest, the current interest and the future interest up to the end of July, 1915, in debentures instead of cash. As a correspondent points out, if the terms of the debentures permit the majority of holders to bind the minority to agree to this, ordinary trade creditors would be placed in a better position than debenture holders, for the former could recover judgment in the Courts, whilst debenture holders would be powerless, if a majority resolved to postpone suing for arrears of interest for years to come. Kent coal companies have done some very queer things in the past, but this latest move on the part of one of them seems about the limit.

A Woolly Investment.

Our attention has been directed to a circular issued by the Investment Registry, Ltd., offering for sale £105,700 of 5 per cent. First Mortgage Gold Bonds in the wool and cotton manufactory of M. Silberstein, Lodz, Russia, "incorporated in the year 1892 under the laws of Russia by decree of the Russian Imperial Government." It all sounds very grand, but in our opinion an investor must be very hard up for an outlet for his capital if he responds to this appeal. This is scarcely the time for sending British capital into Russia. The certificate of the auditors is a remarkable one, the profits for 1909 being stated at £19,249 19s. 10d.; for 1910 £8,690 11s. 5d.; for 1911 £23,250 16s. 8d., whilst those for 1912 are not given "as the inventory of stock was not completed at the time of the Auditors' visit." No explanation is given of the remarkable irregularity in earnings, but the three years are lumped together and averaged, whereas a recurrence to 1910 figures would provide little more than the actual amount required for interest upon the Bonds. No wonder the Investment Registry is offering them "at a discount of 1 per cent." to its own customers, who are coolly informed that "securities of this description are difficult to obtain." It would be interesting to know at what price the Investment Registry has purchased the Bonds, and why they are so eager to get rid of them.

Hurry up, please. Send in your Football Entries NOW.

SMALLMAN & TERRY'S LINCOLNSHIRE DRAW.

£5,000 IN PRIZES.

£2,000 the Winner, £1,000 the 2nd Horse, £500 the 3rd Horse, £250 the 4th Horse, £500 for Runners other than the first four, £250 for non-starters. Extra Cash Prizes: 100 of £2 each, 200 of £1 each, and 200 of 10s. each.

These are the prizes offered by Messrs. SMALLMAN & TERRY in their Lincolnshire Sweepstake, the draw for which took place at Geneva, on Thursday, the 20th March, in the presence of "John Bull's" Special Representative, who personally drew the prizes, and thoroughly satisfied himself that everything was straightforward and aboveboard. The Horses entered were drawn by the tickets bearing the Series Letter and Number placed opposite the name of the horse. The 100 winners of £2 each are also given below.

"John Bull's" Representative was as usual afforded every opportunity of examining books and papers by Messrs. Smallman & Terry, whose well-known character for straight dealing and prompt settlements needs no further comment.

RESULT OF DRAW.

Series & No.	*Horse.*	*Ticketholder.*
A 04436	Long Set	Reed, W., Birks Road, Cleator Moor, Cumberland.
A 05005	Sobieski	Scandrett, Mary, 47, Meadow St., Llanhilleth, Mon.
A 29240	Conamur	Spencer, S. M., 493, Grove Street, Liverpool.
A 46482	Balblair	Brookes, H., 19, Vauxhall Street, Coventry.
B 00325	Moscato	Charles, W. W., 94, Elm Street, Roath, Cardiff.
B 08708	Kosciusko	Hewitt, J., 141, Oxford Street, Leigh, Lancs.
B 16984	Equanimity	Hayes, E. T., 33 Redburn Street, Chelsea, London, S.W.
B 50551	Early Hope	Prime, S., 2, Windsor Road, Westcliff-on-Sea.
C 13303	Sunspot	Clarkson, J., Francis Street, Mount Pleasant, Stanley Crook, Durham.
D 20694	Lavolt	Page, C. A., 26, Haig Road, Plaistow, London, E.
D 45055	Bonbon Rose	Salway, Mr., nr. Post Office, Nursling, Southampton.
E 12171	St. Nat.	Rodgers, J. W. B., 40, Bingham Road, Woodseats, Sheffield.
F 37021	Daly's	Whybrew, E., 61 Batt. R.F.A., Kildare.
G 19629	Wise Simon	Anderson, E., 124, Balfour Street, Holderness Road, Hull.
H 01444	Polkerris	Prichard, R., Nant y Gwyn Terrace, Cwmgorse, Gwaun cae Gurwen, Glam.
H 15111	Brandimintine	Sex, E. A., Compton, Guildford, Surrey.
H 30260	Ormachus	Monk, F., 1, Corona Cott., P.O. Lane, North Queensferry, Fife.
J 06396	White Star	Davis, E., 70, Lea Bridge Road, Clapton, London, N.E.
J 18666	Talana Hill	Ashton, J., 82, Lord Street, Leigh, Lancs.
J 37034	Le Touquet	Walker, C. T., 40, Cambridge Gardens, Edinburgh.
K 17603	Clin d'Oeil	Pilling, Mrs. J. H., Cardston, Alberta, Canada.
K 51250	Uncle Pat	Hill, H. H., 31, Market Place, Warminster, Wilts.
K 54248	Cuthbert	Biggam, D., 10, Stanefordham, Consett, Co. Durham.
L 01693	Halberd	Pratt, J., 22, Stewart Street, Barrow-in-Furness.
L 16770	Eton Boy	Bonny, Mr., 66, Broadmead Road, Folkestone.
L 17949	Proud Scot	Dowson, Mrs. C., 7, Railway Houses, Londesboro' Street, Hull.
M 01506	Apprentice	Mann, F. W., 132, Brondesbury Road, Kilburn, N.W.
M 01470	Grammont	Ram Charan Ram, c.o. Messrs. Martin and Co., 67, Clive Street, Calcutta.
M 06286	Lesto	Jenkinson, T., 21, South Row, Kells Houses, Cumberland.
M 30363	Mordred	James, T., Bryn Villa, Doctor's Road, Gwaun cae Gurwen.
M 46438	Junior	Parsons, A. T., 172, Fratton Road, Portsmouth.
N 16943	Beaurepaire	Dick, W., 3G, Schooner Street, Barrow-in-Furness.
N 40932	Tuxedo	Stewart, D., Glebe House, Addison Terrace, Crieff.
N 48854	John Amendall	Wareham, A., Bulkington, nr. Devizes.
O 05531	Maiden Erlegh	Platt, W., 18, Lynn Street, Wigan.
O 24010	Spanish Prince	Jones, I., 14, Ireton Street, Walton, Liverpool.
P 00983	Wrack	Halsey, Mr., Tillingbourne, Wootton, Surrey.
Q 49892	Dunholm	Elsden, D. H., 152, Station Rd, King's Hth, Birmingham.
R 19338	Saucy Vixen	Boyle, M., Killybegs, Co. Donegal.
S 05241	Mary the Second	Manning, E., 5, Collins Street, off Dale Street, Hulme, Manchester.
T 46131	Quantock	Potton, H. C., 62, Harrow Road, Paddington, W.
U 23061	Cigar	Wilson, B., 62, West Street, Aspatria, Cumberland.
U 33764	Brancepeth	Cameron, W., 7, Drumgrew Row, Croy, Dumbartonshire.
V 12336	Rathurde	Noble, J., 6, Moor End, Millom.
V 12719	Mr. Peeper	Molyneux, H. D., 12, Manor Avenue, Crosby, Liverpool.
V 27976	Berrilldon	Jackson, T. J., 10, Dundas Street, Barrow-in-Furness.
W 30028	Mustapha	Woodrow, J., Church Street, Eccles, Manchester.
W 32125	Ardlinnhe	Cockerin, F., 49, Montgomerie Road, Southsea.
X 26061	Castleton	Hughes, W. H., 43, Wrexham Road, Lodge, Brymbo, nr. Wrexham.
Y 36191	St. Meriadoc	Ludbrook, H., 4, Belfast Road, Stamford Hill, London, N.
Y 44551	Ask Papa	Seaman, M. F., St. Ann's Street, King's Lynn.

£2 Cash Prizes.

Series & No.	*Ticketholder.*
A 01432	Lawrence Haywood, 138, Lomax Street, Darwen.
A 42813	O. Cooke, Bk. 408, Foleshill Road, Coventry.
A 50792	J. Malone, 8, Victor Road, Windsor.
B 01852	Mrs. W. Rogers, Churchill Heath, Kingham, Chipping Norton.
B 14253	A. Taylor Jones, Warwick Towers, Warwick Pk., Tunbridge Wells.
B 25730	Amos. Flack, The Hippodrome, Rotherham.
B 27792	W. J. Smith and Co., Rising Sun, Harwich Street, Whitstable.
C 00723	John Wilson, Croft Foot, St. Bees.
C 12207	J. Robt. Wells, 2, Pearl Avenue, Lorne Street, Hull.
C 17603	Mrs. Body, Twelvewoods, Liskeard, Cornwall.
C 20236	T. F. Clinch, Farmers' Arms, Skewen, near Neath, Glam.
C 28398	J. Mullins, Trinity College, Oxford.
C 44029	W. Blaylock, 40, Leazes, Throckley, Newburn, S.O.
D 01421	Mr. Parsons, The Studio, Stevenage, Herts.
D 02396	F. S. Harding, 37, Harbour Street, Ramsgate.
D 09813	A. P. Henratty, 46, Vaughan Street, Middlesbrough.
D 40425	A. Thomas, 9, Poplar Grove, Woodcock Street, Hull.
D 49762	Ben. Richardson, 163, Mitre Street, Lambeth, S.E.
E 12895	R. Dunn, 3, Ferguson Street, Ewood, Blackburn.
E 17930	Walter Birkett, 12, Byrom Street, Woolfold, Bury.
E 33453	Miss F. Barnett, Stanhope House, Wilton Avenue, Southampton.
F 26492	Charles King, Junr., 16, Whisky Road, Attercliffe, Sheffield.
F 30939	K. Curtis, 341, Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth.
F 32023	Wm. Tindall, 103, Seamer Road, Scarborough.
F 38630	C. Hodgson, 56, Abbotts Walk, Fleetwood.
G 01070	W. Williams, Golden Lion Hotel, Vints Square, Llanelly.
G 08019	R. Swain, 99, Westminster Bridge Road, S.E.
G 10974	Chas. Steel, 87, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent.
G 18043	Ernest Swallow, 19, Hope Street, Hanson Lane, Halifax.
G 36802	J. F. Thomas, 214, Burrage Road, Plumstead, Kent.
G 43319	A. Roe, 38, David Street, Grimsby.
H 01232	Donald McDougall, 32, Valleyfield Street, Springburn, Glasgow.
H 18380	John Edwards, 2, New Cross Street, Ebbw Vale, Mon.
H 23708	Mrs. Richardson, 60, Castle Street, Tatfield, Washington S.O.
J 00702	Jas. Collins, 1, Blaenclydach Place, Grangetown, Cardiff.
J 06673	Wm. Thompson, 46, Bell Street, North Shields.
J 23858	Jos. Jones, 6, Kingston Terrace, Witham, Hull.
K 20377	Miss H. Howe, 1, Albion Street, Newfoundland Road, Bristol.
K 41653	J. Lea, 158, Ossett Road, Dewsbury.
K 52642	C. E. Somerton, Ship's Steward, H.M.S. *Minerva*, Dover.
L 19029	A. A. Purchase, Priscilla Cottage, North Rd., St. Denys, Southampton.
L 20682	John Horrocks, 56, Bolton Road, Westhoughton, Bolton.
L 42545	C. W. Mann, 54, Reform Street, Charles Street, Hull.
L 46013	Mrs. E. Read, 9, Clitton Street, Hornsea, East Yorks.
M 15116	Miss E. Thomas, 33, Castle Street, Neath.
M 24873	C. Percival, 40, Penda Road, Clapton Park, N.E.
M 26197	A. S. Jones, 110, Church Street, Westhoughton, Bolton.
M 47807	W. Carvill, 11, Morecambe Street, Morecambe.
N 22611	A. Bomphrey, Bayeliffe, Lymm, Cheshire.
N 27216	Colin Stewart, 109, Henry Street, Kenilworth, Warwicks.
N 39153	Thos. Owen, 72, Cotswold Street, Kensington, Liverpool.
N 40811	T. Metcalfe, 20, Parker Lane, Burnley.
O 21082	B. Nordin, 13, Palmer Street, Weston-super-Mare.
O 57005	A. Newbould, 15, Strawberry Street, Hull.
O 57164	J. Townsend Mango, Double Canteen, Goojerat Barracks, Colchester.
P 03919	John Harkness, Nisbet, Pencaitland, East Lothian.
P 10510	Robt. Leonard, Rye Hill, Burstwick, Hull.
P 18445	Chas. S. Brooks, c.o. Wards, South Avenue, Southend.
P 26875	J. Butterworth, 109, Coppice Street, Oldham.
P 42799	Mrs. A. Marsh, 57, Canterbury Road, Whitstable.
Q 08488	C. Spice, 12, Coulman Street, Gillingham.
Q 47285	N. Grundy, 1, Osborne Road, Portswood, Southampton.
Q 51403	C. Fairhead, Brick House, Pekton, Colchester.
R 18396	E. Minter, 22, Nasmyth Street, Hammersmith, W.
R 19401	W. F. Matthewson, 100, Doncaster Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
R 22841	Miss B. Hodge, 26, Garden Street, Devonport.
R 24429	Rd. Hilton, 23, Borsdane Terrace, Hindley, Wigan.
R 25928	J. Nelling, 6, Heatley Street, Preston, Lancs.
R 33485	Mrs. A. Hill, 59, Yew Tree Lane, South Yardley, Birmingham.
S 10356	Jas. Hitchen, 371, Billings Road, Pemberton, Wigan.
S 11043	John Gunter, Bescot View, Darlaston Road, Pleck, Walsall.
S 13749	John Fowler, 10, Westbrook Villas, Darlington.
S 42651	C. A. King, 5, St. Vincents Road, Southend-on-Sea.
T 08692	Rd. Carr, 11, Fern Street, Bank Top, Darlington.
T 26089	Geo. Pierson, High Street, Sheerness.
T 40139	F. H. Mitchell, Crowborough, Sussex.
T 41314	E. J. Jones, 2, Ikernnan Row East, Port Talbot.
U 12435	Arthur Kinton, 44, Malmesbury Road, Southampton.
U 23425	T. H. McLachlan, 251, Springburn Road, Glasgow.
U 32495	J. Malone, 8, Victor Road, Windsor.
U 49339	J. Ward, Cliff House, Ingrow, Keighley, Yorks.
U 49681	F. Broderick, 34, Vardens Road, Wandsworth, S.W.
V 14809	A. Green, 2, Derby Terrace, Marsden, Huddersfield.
V 15835	W. Sparling, Ivy Cottage, Adelaide Grove, East Cowes.
V 18108	D. Vretor, Friarside, Preston Road, North Shields.
W 04642	J. Steel, 29, Kent Street, Middlesbrough.
W 10476	F. Stern, 18, Julia Street, Strangeways, Manchester.
W 21152	Mrs. S Brown, 6, The Grove, Aberfan, Merthyr Vale.
W 40810	R. W. Powner, 55, High Street, Wellington, Salop.
X 02967	H. J. Morris, 40, Bridgend Street, Cardiff.
X 45448	S. Hendy, 17, Greenbank Road, Ashton Gate, Bristol.
Y 00464	Miss J. Clarkson, Church View, Statmine, Poulton-le-Fylde.
Z 07877	D. Greenwood, 14, Banksfield Road, Mytholmroyd, Yorks.
Z 14776	J. Jones, 6, Kent Street, Lecholme Coundon, Bishop Auckland.
Z 19935	C. Mountain, Duke Street, Sheffield.
Z 21529	F. Studley, Isolation Hospital, Chingford, N.E.
Z 29640	E. Beeton, 5, Albion Cottages, Gainsborough.
Z 35047	F. Howarth, 4, School Terrace, Golborne, Lancs.
Z 37790	F. Riddle, 3, Hartington Street, Loftus, Yorks.
Z 40872	Frank Austin, 18, Elton Place, S.W.

A full list of the £1 and 10s. Cash Prize Winners is being sent to all Clients.

SMALLMAN & TERRY, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE LETTER-BOX.

Letters containing enquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, John Bull, 52, New Broad Street, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

A Postal Order for 1s. must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa.—W. J. C. (Upper Tooting).—Ask our contemporary for a specific reason for its advice, and remind them that they described the prospectus as an exceptionally straightforward one.——W. L. T. (Ripon).—The latest news is of the most satisfactory character. Do not be persuaded to part with your holding.——L. J. (Plymouth).—Mr. Mills-Davies *is* the expert to whom you refer.——W. R. S. (Hull).—We understand that no further shares can be obtained at par. The pioneers of the scheme are the South African Petroleum Exploration Syndicate, Ltd., 80, Coleman Street, E.C.——L.J. T. (Norwich).—Stand on us.

Low-priced Mine.—Mack.—A pure spec., and everything depends upon whether these deposits are of any importance. Do not load yourself up too heavily with the shares.

Outside Concern.—Enquirer.—You were very foolish to deal with these people, and you ought to know that you are not likely to really get something for nothing. The Wassau Banket, Ltd., is practically moribund, and these people have got you to pay £6 5s. for 50 shares which are practically worthless. It is an old game in another form.

Investment, etc.—J. W. P. (Dumbarton).—Apply to the agents, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Lombard Street, London, E.C. Have nothing to do with the concern in question, which is nothing more than a firm of outside stockbrokers of doubtful repute. Put the £300 in question into Great Central 5 per cent. 1879 Preference stock, and into Vickers Third Mortgage 5 per cent. Debentures at 106.

Premium Bonds.—W. F. (Seaham Harbour).—Have nothing to do with this Brussels firm, but deal only with a respectable firm of foreign bankers in London, such as Messrs. N. Keizer and Co., 31, Threadneedle Street, E.C., or with the Paris firm of Cunliffe, Russell and Co., 10, Place de la Bourse, Paris. There is no information available here regarding the Yorkshire Engine Co.; you must make your inquiries in Sheffield.

Anglo-Japanese Trading.—A. J. N. (Lower Edmonton).—We cannot find any trace of this concern, and in any case the shares have no value in the market.

Outside Concern.—Seven Arches (Leeds).—We strongly advise you to have nothing to do either with these people or others of the same kidney. They are outside brokers of the worst type, and you might as well throw your money into the sea as to entrust it to them.

Canadians.—Bexhill.—It is not policy to invest money through concerns of this kind, and you will find it much more satisfactory to buy your securities direct through a stockbroker. Moreover, the Companies mentioned are not a good selection, especially as they have but a very limited market. If you like we can give you a better selection.

Black Sea and Maikop Victory.—Bobbie.—If you hold these shares keep them for the present, but do not buy any more to average until matters in connection with the Maikop Oilfield take a turn for the better. That should not be long now.

Premium Bonds.—Mrs. F. (Hurlingham).—You could doubtless obtain particulars of the Paris Exhibition Bonds from Messrs. Cunliffe, Russell and Co., 10, Place de la Bourse, Paris, who are the largest dealers in this class of security.——H. H. (Sunderland).—You cannot do better than apply to Messrs. Cunliffe, Russell and Co., of the above address.

Galician Oil Lands and Royalties Trust.—Dubious.—We have returned the pass-book you sent us. The shares are sold to you by the Exchange in question as principals, and we have no doubt that on completion of the purchase a certificate containing distinguishing numbers will be delivered to you. We have frequently expressed a favourable opinion as to the prospects of the undertaking, and, in the circumstances, you should take them up.

Radium Shares.—A. E. O. (Ramsbury).—We doubt whether you will get your money back. Doubtless these people have either disappeared or will begin operations again in other names.

Outside Concern.—A. V. (Scunthorpe).—As far as is known, this concern has met its engagements. Some of the undertakings sponsored by it, however, have proved to be "bad eggs," and it is, therefore, not advisable to accept all its recommendations without question.

Company in Liquidation.—Constant Reader.—We should think that you would rank after the creditors, in which case there seems to be little prospect of your getting any money back. However, it is a case for a solicitor to deal with, if you feel inclined to spend any more money in the matter.

Outside Brokers.—J. W. D. (Aberdeen).—Outside brokers, who have their own axes to grind. Have nothing to do with them or with their recommendations.

Blind Pool.—Cymro.—You can congratulate yourself that you have not lost more than £3 over the deal, which is nothing more than a "blind pool," run by outside touts. Have nothing to do with such people in future.

Another "Pool."—Yorkshire Lass.—There seems to be a fresh spasm of activity on the part of the "blind pool" touts, and we regret that we cannot help you to recover your money. In future steer clear of people offering you such fancy rates of interest, which cannot be got by honest means. We think that it is a case for the police, and you might communicate with Scotland Yard.

Vaal River Diamonds Syndicate.—W. W. R. E. (Glam.)—We regret being unable to find any trace whatever of this concern, which seems to be a purely local Company. In any case, there is no market for the shares here.

Arizona Mine.—T. H. S. (Cardiff).—We strongly deprecate an investment in these shares, in which there is no market.

Liability for Calls.—J. T. H.—Seeing that you have applied for the shares, you cannot rid yourself of the liability, unless you can sell, which you will find rather difficult, as there is no regular market. Even if you offered to forfeit the shares you are still liable.

Marconis.—Anfield.—However strongly you feel, we are afraid you have no remedy in law. The occurrence shows that the advice of brokers is by no means infallible, but, having taken it, you have no option but to put up with the loss.

Consols.—S. O. T. (Sheerness).—At present Consols are benefiting from Sinking Fund purchases, but when these are completed they will probably fall back into the old rut. Take an early opportunity to sell, especially after a rise.

Industrial Co.—T. P. Cross Keys.—Practically no information is available as regards the concern, and the shares in which are not marketable in the ordinary way. The dividend looks tempting, but the capital is so small that it does not take much to pay it. We do not care for the investment.

Ideal Benefit Society.—H. R. W. (Wolverhampton).—The Society is exceedingly ambitious. It is not only a Sick Benefit Institution and a Building Society, but is associated with a "bank" under the title of the "Birmingham Mutual Bank, Ltd.," whilst in the *Mutual Help*, the official organ of the Ideal Benefit Society and the Birmingham Mutual Bank, Ltd., readers are invited to visit the Ideal Village and to cease paying rent by becoming house owners. These are all worthy and laudable aspirations, and we shall be interested to learn how these various projects are being carried out. As regards the balance-sheet, to which you draw our attention, we should like to know how and where the funds of the Society are invested, and why the auditor's certificate is not shown at the foot of the balance-sheet? Large prospective benefits are promised to a person remaining a member for 50 years, and we would like to be enlightened as to the basis upon which this forecast is formulated, and whether it has received the approval of the actuary? The Society may be all it is claimed for it, and has associated with it the names of several respected citizens of Birmingham, but we should like information upon the points we have raised.

National Health Insurance.—Jet (Bexhill).—The Act makes it clear that persons employed as apprentices or learners receiving no wages are excepted from being insured. Apprentices of the age of sixteen or upwards receiving money payment come within the provisions of the Act, and inasmuch as your son will shortly receive a weekly payment, which you say is part of the premium being returned, we are of opinion that he must be insured. The rate of contribution is 7d. per week, towards which the employer contributes 3d.——P. B. (Dublin).—We should recommend you to make the case known to the Insurance Commissioners at the Central Office in Dublin.——W. P. (Sleaford).—Although the payment of periodical sums of money only commences from the fourth day after notice has been given, there must be no break in the contributions payable prior to the sickness benefit becoming claimable. The benefits to persons in arrears would be reduced, and, if the arrears exceed more than thirteen weeks in the year on an average, contributors get no sickness benefit at all.

Personal Security Loans.—Cashier.—For a loan on personal security, with guarantors, apply to the English and Scottish Life Assurance Association, 41, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh; Norwich Union Life Insurance Society, 9, Union Chambers, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow; General Life Assurance Company, 103, Cannon Street, London, E.C.; and the Eagle Insurance Company, 41, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.

Life Assurance.—Echo.—The Society having recognised the granddaughter as the legal claimant, we think you may rest satisfied with their assurance on this point. The policy having been effected so far back as 1902, you had better keep it going notwithstanding that the premiums already exceed the "sum assured."

American Life Assurance.—H. H. T. (Coventry).—The American offices operating in this country can be depended upon to fulfil their obligations towards the policy-holders. The complaint we have had to make has been in relation to certain Tontine estimates not having been realised in the past. As regards the New York Life, in which you hold two policies, this Company is in the front rank, and we believe its huge business is skilfully and honourably administered. From a British standpoint, for choice try the following:—Equitable Life Assurance Society, Mansion House Street, London, E.C.; Scottish Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society, 9, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh; National Provident Institution, 48, Gracechurch Street, E.C.

Prudential Assurance Co.—V. D. (Buxton).—If the solicitors are unable to obtain any satisfaction for you, we do not see how we can assist you further. Yours is a very difficult and unusual case. We presume you are aware that, if at any time you could prove the death of the assured, the premiums paid after his death would be recoverable, in addition to the claim. We do not think the local superintendent could do anything for you.——Anti-Shark.—The Company do not grant Free Paid-up policies until the person assured has paid 25 years' premiums and reached the age of 75. If your patient cannot continue the payments, he should ask for a Free Paid-up policy for a reduced amount—which would be just £6.——P. B. (Annan).—We have compared your statement with the Company's prospectus, and we find the amount they have offered you is the surrender value of your policy.

(A number of replies are held over.)

Remember! £7 a week for life—£1,250 cash must be won.

A GREAT IMPERIAL ENTERPRISE

South Africa's New Industry—Oil Within The Empire.

A £1 Share which in the Opinion of an Eminent Expert May be Worth £200.

For many weeks past we have been drawing attention in this page to the exploitation of South Africa's newest industry—OIL.

We have explained that for many years the existence of petroliferous areas in South Africa has been well-known amongst experts, but that up to the present no systematic attempt has been made to develop this new source of wealth upon a commercial scale.

We have quoted, from week to week, the opinions of some of the greatest Oil authorities of the world, formed after a personal examination of the ground in the Ceres District, Cape Province, to the effect that Oil undoubtedly abounds in such district.

We have also announced that an important parent Company—THE CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD., has recently been formed with a capital of £250,000, including a working capital of £50,000, for the purpose of developing the valuable petroliferous lands which have been acquired in the Ceres District.

We have published the opinion of one of America's leading experts that, in view of the evidence available, the £1 Shares of such Company are potentially worth £200.

We have quoted articles from the leading English and Colonial papers indicating the immense public interest which the scheme of the Company has aroused.

And we have emphasised the immense importance to the British Empire of this new source of Oil supply within its own Dominions.

Our object throughout has been to attract attention to the great Imperial undertaking of which we have acted as pioneers, and in which we have been successful in interesting the investing public to a sufficient extent to ensure adequate capital for the purposes of the parent Company above referred to.

The object of the present announcement is to make it clear that as from the end of the present month no further shares of such parent Company will be available except at a premium, in view of the fact that one of South Africa's leading geologists, MR. J. E. MILLS-DAVIES, has now arrived upon the properties controlled by The Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa, and has definitely located boring sites.

We shall be happy to supply any further information to investors and others interested in this important enterprise, which in the opinion of "JOHN BULL" is destined to mark the dawn of a new era in the Oil production of the World, and the shares of which are described by the Editor of that Journal as constituting "by far the most attractive purchase in the Oil Market to-day."

SOUTH AFRICAN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION SYNDICATE, LTD.

80, Coleman Street, London. E.C.

£450 FOR A BULLET!

OUR FIRST PRIZE AGAIN INCREASED!

This week we are increasing our FIRST PRIZE to the huge sum of £450. Our Prizes now value the enormous amount of £1,770.

FIRST PRIZE - - £450

PRIZES VALUE £1,770

SECOND PRIZE - - - - £50
THIRD PRIZE - - - - £25
Ten Prizes of £2 10s. each.

A Large Number of £1 and 10s. Prizes,
200 Prizes of 7/6
AND
5,000 OTHER VALUABLE PRIZES.

PRIZES VALUE £1,770

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 Examples:—

BRITISH NAVY
QUEEN ALEXANDRA
THE SUFFRAGETTE MOVEMENT
PROFIT AND LOSS
THE BROKERS
HARD UP
SPEECHLESS
HOBBLE SKIRT
SEMI-FINALS
MOST SINGULAR
MATRIMONY
HER ONGUE
MY WIFE'S SISTER
STAGE DOOR
THE NEW TYPIST
SAME AGAIN
MOST AWKWARD WHEN
HER TEARS
LOVERS' PROMISES
JUSTICE
HOLIDAY TRIPS
BABY SHOW
NOTICE TO QUIT
POLICE BLUNDERS
THE RULING PASSION
NATIONAL SERVICE
GLAZIERS
STARTING PRICES
MOST PAINFUL
THE EASIEST WAY
LIVING WAGE
EASY TERMS
FURNISHED APARTMENTS
THE LITTLE ONES
FORTY SHILLINGS
ACTRESS'S DIAMONDS
BANK HOLIDAYS
WHAT THOUSANDS WANT
WHEN DRUNK
WHY HUBBY LEFT

IMPORTANT.

EVERY BULLETS COUPON RECEIVED IS SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY READ BY OUR SPECIAL STAFF OF ADJUDICATORS, AFTER WHICH ALL THE COUPONS ARE READ A SECOND TIME WITH THE SAME TROUBLE AND CARE.

HOW TO MAKE BULLETS.

First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two words or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST and LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example, "PROFIT AND LOSS," and take the letters, "F" and "S," using the word "more" as the middle word, you can make the Bullet, "FORMER MORE SATISFACTORY." Or from the example, "THE LITTLE ONES," the Bullet, "TROUBLESOME SOMETIMES" can be formed. Again, if you take the example, "LIVING WAGE," using the letter "W" as initial for both the first and last word, you can form the Bullet, "WE ALL WANT."

Competitors who have already won any prizes, large or small, in this competition are in no way debarred from winning again.

Competitors can send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence, but if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

Closing date, Wednesday, April 2nd.

Example ——————————————
Bullet ——————————————

Example ——————————————
Bullet ——————————————

(26) P.O. No. ————

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed ——————————
Address ——————————

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

This week's Bullets Coupons will also be found in "MARY BULL," dated April 5.

Closing date, Wednesday, April 2nd.

Example ——————————————
Bullet ——————————————

Example ——————————————
Bullet ——————————————

(26) P.O. No. ————

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding

Signed ——————————
Address ——————————

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

If Both Coupons Are Used a Postal Order for 1/- Must Be Sent.

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS NO. 26," "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

Write "COMPETITION" on top left hand corner of Envelope.

"BULLETS" RULES (*which must be strictly adhered to*).

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the editor, assisted by a competent staff of adjudicators, is the best Bullet received, and the other prizes in order of merit. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.
2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons on this page, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.
3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed — & Co — Competitors must write their names and addresses, and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Stamps will not be accepted.
4. Coupons must not be cut or defaced in any manner, or have portions of another coupon pasted upon them.
5. Entries must reach us not later than the first post on the morning of Wednesday, April 2nd.
6. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet reaching him shall receive careful consideration by a competent staff; but the Editor will not hold himself responsible for coupons lost or mislaid.
7. No correspondence can be entered into concerning this competition.
8. The Editor's decision on all matters concerning this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

RESULT OF TWENTY-THIRD BULLETS COMPETITION.

FIRST PRIZE OF £400:—

Mr. J. E. ASHMEAD-BARTLET,
No. 1, Kempson Road, Fulham, London, S.W.
Example:—SO LONG.
Bullet:—LADDER OF SUCCESS.

SECOND PRIZE OF £50:—

Mr. A. BISHOP,
432, Holloway Road, London, W.
Example:—THE WORLD.
Bullet:—LIVER ALTERS OUTLOOK.

THIRD PRIZE OF £25

Mrs. L. SHARMAN,
4, Westnaton Road, Cleethorpes, Lincs.
Example:—THE LADIES.
Bullet:—SMILES MOVE "TILES."

TEN Prizes of £2 10s. are awarded as follows:

Mr. W. C. AUGUS, c.o. B.O.C., Ltd., 163, Hope Street, Glasgow (MARCH WINDS:—"WEAKLIES" GO "[illegible]"); Mr. A. FILSON, 5, Coulter Road, Hammersmith, W. (RUINED REPUTATIONS BY RUMOURS); Mr. D. C. ADDIE, Rank and File Headquarters, 5th Scottish Rifles, No. 7 Co., 261, West Princes Street, Glasgow, W. (SUDDEN SHOCK—"SIR" FROM HER); Mr. BERT SPENCER, 9, Buckingham Street, Chorley, Lancs. (PROCRASTINATION—ALWAYS MISFORTUNE'S PARTNER); Mr. A. COLLETT, 7, Cross Cheaping, Coventry (BABY'S CRADLE—"REFILLS" ARE EXPENSIVE); Mr. FRANK HARRIS, 3, Riga Villas, Albany Road, Sittingbourne (PROCRASTINATION—SCHOOLBOY IN CONFECTIONER'S); Mr. W. D. JONES, 8, School Terrace, Cwm, Mon. (THE WORLD—WIFE'S HAT HIDES); Mr. CHAS. BROUGHTON, Rosendoon, Lion Road, Bexley Heath, Kent (SPRING CLEANING—LONDON STATUES REQUIRE); Mr. A. JONES, 9, Beversbrook Road, Tufnell Park, N. (PROCRASTINATION—NOVICE OUTSIDE PAWNSHOP).

£2 10s. PRIZE DIVIDED BETWEEN:—

Mr. G. DAWSON, 787, Ecclesall Road, Sheffield (BIG EXPLOSION—ENDED PA'S PLUMBING); Mr. VERNON WEST, 43, Brownhill Crescent, Harehills Lane, Leeds (BIG EXPLOSION—PA TRIES PLUMBING).

10 PRIZE WINNERS of £1 EACH.

BARRY, B., Mrs., 51, Heaton Moor Road, Stockport.
BURBIDGE, L. W., 71, Ansdell Road, Peckham, S.E.
GREENWELL, W., 14, Nicholson Street, Sunderland.
HAINES, H., 7, Chamberlain Road, West Ealing, London.
MOORE, B., 76, Green Lanes, Newington Green, N.
PREECE, H. A., Thornhill Pharmacy, Mortimer, Berks.
ROSE, S., 14, Hale Road, Liscard, Cheshire.
SAVAGE, N., 29, Hubert Grove, Stockwell, S.W.
WATKINS, E., 25, Courtenay Street, Newton Abbot, Devon.
WILLIAMS, GEO., 37, Spencer Street, Gateshead.

20 PRIZE WINNERS of 10s. EACH.

ADDISON, A. A., 29, Bellwood-rd., Nunhead, S.E.
ARCHER, T. J., 64, Dangan Road, Wanstead, Essex.
BIRD, W. H., 52, Grosvenor Road, Rugby.
CLAYTON, J., 50, William Henry Street, Liverpool.
CUTHBERT, R., 349, Great Cheetham Street, Broughton, Manchester.
ELWELL, H. N., 15, Nottingham Rd., Spondon, Derby.
HARPER, A., Killarney, Kensington Road, Knock, Belfast.
HEWLETT, A. G., 65, Clevedon Road, Weston-super-Mare.
HILL, F., 3, Victoria Road, Alexandra Park, N.
HOWARD, J. T., 72, Poplar Grove, New Malden, Surrey.
MCMILLAN, G., 185, New King's Road, Fulham, S.W.
MIZEN, E., Elm Cottage, Grove Road, Streatham, S.W.
NIXON, H. L., 35, Lawson Road, Southsea, Portsmouth.
PHILLIPS, A. R., 21, Claude Road, Cardiff.
SLOCOMBE, E., Oxhey Warren, Watford, Herts.
SNELL, Mrs., Crarenden, Ramcliffe Avenue, Scarborough.
TATE, R., 48, Elborough Street, Southfields, S.W.
WATTS, J. P., 14, Union Street, Ryde, I. of W.
WILLIAMS, E., 38a, High Street, Swansea.
WILSON, R., Olka, Cheriton Road, Alresford, Hants.

LIST OF 200 PRIZE WINNERS OF 7s. 6d. EACH. "BULLETS" COMPETITION NO. 23.

A Selection from the List of 5,000 winners of valuable Prizes can be seen in "Mary Bull," dated April 12th.

Air, J., Lilybank-st., Friockheim, N.B.
Aitken, J. W., 9, Wallace-st., Dumfries, N.B.
Arnold, A. H., 18, Penllyn-ave., Newport, Mon.
Arnot, J. H., 5, Windsor-ter., Glasgow, N.W.
Arthur, O., Picturedome Hall, Rhosllanerchrugog, N. Wales.
Ash, F. J., 10, Lipson-ave., Plymouth.
Atterton, J., 121, Atwood-rd., Didsbury, Manchester.
Auchterlonic, A. J., 22, Comely Bank-ave., Edinburgh.
Ayre, F. G., 12, Mt. Pleasant-rd., Lewisham, S.E.
Bagge, R. C., 93, Springfield-rd., King's Heath, Birmingham.
Bailey, W. G., Kneeton Cottage, Middleton Tyas, Yorks.
Bairtow, A., 16, Richmond-rd., Bedford.
Baker, F. A., 43, Rudloe-rd., Clapham Park, S.W.
Ball, W., 151, Arnold-st., Bolton.
Barter, C., 41, Holland-rd., Plymouth.
Barton, C., Baker, Watford, Herts.
Barwood, H. V., 86, Southchurch-ave., Southend-on-Sea.
Beard, A. A., 17, Chillerton-rd., Streatham, S.W.
Beaumont, E., 37, Brownswood-rd., Finsbury Park, N.
Becket, Mrs. M., c/o A. Parkes, 98, Alexandra-rd., Heely, Sheffield.
Bell, A., 406, Unthanks-rd., Norwich.
Bell, J., 26, Fairfalls, Newbrancepeth, Durham.
Bickell, A. W., Birnbeck Cottage, Weston-super-Mare.
Bolland, F., 9, Cannon Hill-ter., Merton Park, S.W.
Bone, J., 69, Alloway-st., Ayr, N.B.
Boyce, W. H., "Oakleigh," Bath-rd., Stourbridge.
Bradley, W. S., 13, Earl's Court-gdns., S.W.
Bramwell, J. N., Roby-rd., Roby, Liverpool.
Brand, L. J., 43, Butlin-rd., Luton, Beds.
Brierley, D. N., 91, Cammell-rd., Firth Park, Sheffield.
Brown, J. V., 31, Broomfield-rd., Hale, Altrincham.
Bruce, J., 152, Brunton-gdns., Edinburgh.
Bruce, Mrs. A., 10, Comiston-ter., Edinburgh.
Budd, S. W., Spondon, Derby.
Bullock, R. J., 40, Crowmere-rd., Shrewsbury.
Bullock, H., The Lodge, 20, Park-rd., Ipswich.
Butler, G. W., 51, Law-st., W. Bromwich.
Butler Bros., 40, Flower Market, Covent Garden, W.C.
Campbell, J., The Cottage, Gracemount, Liberton, Midlothian, N.B.
Campbell, A., 14, St. Augustine's-rd., Bedford.
Carbonnell, Miss A., Fairford, Gloucestershire.
Chapman, W., Lakeneath Station, G.E.R., Suffolk.
Chittenden, E. G., 372, Rotten Park-rd., Birmingham.
Clark, R. P., 6, Radford-rd., Nottingham.
Cobley, E. A., 98, Maryland-sq., Forest Lane, Stratford, Essex.
Collinge, F., 1, Cable-st., Southport.
Colthup, W. C., 35, Ladysmith-ave., Seven Kings, Essex.
Cramp, J., Hayes Lane, Exhall, nr. Coventry.
Cron, R. H., 21, Clare-st., Dublin.
Crookes, E., 10, Worcester-ter., Sunderland.
Crowhurst, R., 11, St. John's-st., Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey.
Cruickshank, J., 60, Wellington-rd., Lancaster.
Cummins, S., 84, Church-lane, Moston, Manchester.
Davies, G., 119, Vicarage-rd., Langley, Birmingham.
Davies, J. E., 1, Coronation-rd., Aldershot.
Dayman, J. R., 18, Eton-rd., Newport, Mon.
Dean, F. G., 54, Harold-rd., Upton Park, Essex.
Delaney, P., 72, Kettlingborne Brow, Higher Walton, nr. Preston.
Dolf, J., 77, Clonmore-st., Southfields, S.W.
Durham, Mrs. M., 96, Yerbury-rd., Upper Holloway, N.
Darno, J., 7, Percy-ter., Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Dutton, Mrs. J., 1, Portman-rd., Wavertree, Liverpool.
Dyson, W. J., 98, Lower-rd., Rotherhithe, S.E.
Edgley, J. E., "Waverley," Vicarage-rd., Chelmsford, Essex.
Elljs, E., 42, Alderley-rd., Flixton, Manchester.
Ewen, C. L., 45, Hope-st., Glasgow.
Foot, P., Worboys, Huntingdon.
Foster, F., 66, Rusholme-rd., C.-on-M., Manchester.
France, J., 71, Goodman-st., Blackley, Manchester.
Francis, T., 41, Hampden-st., Bolton.
Fraser, J., 50, Argyle-st., Inverness.
Garne, M. J., 6, Union-pl., Montrose, Forfarshire.
Gillow, O. W., 34, Brougham-rd., Seacombe, Cheshire.
Gingell, J. H., 1, Cwm-rd., Aberbargoed, Mon.
Glover, M. J., Lisfarrell, Satanita-rd., Westcliff-on-Sea.
Goodall, Mrs., 108, Walsall-st., Wednesbury.
Goodyear, R., West Riding, South Cliff, Scarborough.
Green, Miss D., 150, Main-rd., Darnell, Sheffield.
Greene, Mrs. E. M., Kilmeaden, Co. Waterford.
Greenwell, Sarah, 19, Seaside-lane, Easington Colliery, via Castle Eden.
Grey, G. D., 67, High-st., Weston-super-Mare.
Griffiths, G., 9, Clarence-st., Pembroke Dock.
Grigsby, A., 25, Garden City, Edgware.
Gulliver, Mrs., 80, Desborough-rd., St. Jude's, Plymouth.
Halman, Mrs. W., 34, Cranbrook Park, Wood Green, N.
Hammond, Mrs. E., Broadway Laundry, Bexley Heath, Kent.
Harman, Mrs. M. A., 152, Westfield-rd., East Southsea, Portsmouth.
Harris, S. C., General Stores, Mathry, Letterston, Pembroke.
Harrower, W. K., Alexandra Lodge, Kirby-le-Soken, Kirby Cross, Essex.
Hartley, B., 85, Bradford-rd., Shipley, Yorks.
Haynes, Miss E., 13, Clarendon-rd., Edgbaston, Birmingham.
Hazzard, C. F., Midford, Bath, Somerset
Heald, A., "The Knoll," West Wells-rd., Ossett, Yorks.
Heazell, A. E., 66, London-rd., Liverpool.
Hedley-Morton, E., 54, Coney-st., York.
Hill, W., 144, Dairy House-rd., Derby.
Hodgson, F. L., Hermitage-st., Crewkerne, Somerset.
Howard, R. M., 29, Newland, Northampton.
Howard, Mrs. L., 11, Stanley-ave., Leslie-rd., Nottingham.
Hoyle, H. W., 12, Newcomen-rd., Stamshaw, Portsmouth.
Hudson, H., 10, East Parade, Baildon, Yorks.
Hunt, R. R., 7, Hyde-rd., Bredbury, Stockport.
Irwin, G., 12, Wellington-st., Heslington rd., York.
Jago, J. P., 3, Ladysmith-rd., Plymouth.
Jewell A., 80, Slade-rd., Ilfracombe.
John, A., 14, Nicholl-st., Swansea.
Johnson, W. H., 27, Bridge-st., Driffield, Yorks.
Johnson, Vivian A., 93, Endcliffe Vale-rd., Sheffield.
Jones, D., 44, Virgil-st., Bolton.
Keynton, E., Sergt.-Major, 5th Battery, 15th Bgde. R.F.A., Hilsea, Portsm'th.
King, Mrs. H., 38, Lorne-rd., Stroud Green, N.
Kitchin, V., Elm House, Hanover-st., Peckham, S.E.
Knight, A., "Baflaret," Monkmoor-rd., Shrewsbury.
Knight, G., Headquarters, Telegraphs, Stanhope Lines, Aldershot.
Lake, W. H., 2, South View, Upper Ventnor, Isle of Wight.
Lamb, F., 11, Goldfinch-st., Preston.
Lawrence, E. G., 66, Ettington-rd., Aston, Birmingham.
Lee, C., Hillside Cottage, Kingsdown, Deal.
Lepine, Miss K., 14, Doods-rd., Reigate Surrey.
Lowe, H., 31, Bridge-st., Ledbury, Herefordshire.
Lyddon, Mrs. G., 125, St. Albans-rd., Dartford, Kent.
Maskell, G., H.M.S. Falcon, Dover.
Maclean, Mrs. K. I., Christ's Hospital, Hertford.
McAvoy, J. R., Inchgrower, Ross-ave., Inverness.
McBurnie, R., 8, Dewey-ave., Liverpool.
McCallum, M., Whin Cottage, Fairlie, Ayrshire.
McConville, E. S., 176, Heath-rd., Twickenham.
McDonald, T., 27, Saxe-Weimar-rd., Southsea.
McGuckin, T., 114, Donnison-st., Dunston-on-Tyne, co. Durham.
McLeish, C. H., 45, East Trinity-rd., Edinburgh.
McMann, C., Staff, Town Hall, Camberwell, S.E.
Medhurst, Mrs. L. N., 276, Cheriton-rd., Folkestone.
Megson, B., 53, Burghley-rd., Hornsey, N.
Mercer, A., 286, Cleethorpe-rd., Grimsby.
Miller, G., Manager, International Stores, Spalding.
Mitchell, P. G., Avon House, Hartley, Wintney, Hants.
Mitchell, Miss N., 93, Rock Lane, Rock Ferry.
Money, J. M., 10, Millar-st., Motherwell, N.B.
Moore, J. L., Wellesley, Torquay.
Morris, W., Jun., 51, Plume-st., Aston, Birmingham.
Nash, Annie, Woodcut, Wrecclesham, Farnham.
Noble, Lilian E., Hillside-ave., Fartown, Huddersfield.
Odgers, Mrs. W. H., 24, Godolphin-rd., Helston, Cornwall.
O'Halloran, E., P.O., Swinefleet, Yorks.
Packer, Mrs. E., East Hagbourne, nr. Reading.
Paige, F. E., 55, Malvern-rd., Romford, Essex.
Parsonson, T., 36, Beech Hall-rd., Highams Park, Chingford.
Potter, Mrs. M. E., 2, Duchy Grove, Harrogate.
Powell, Mrs. M., Brentbrook, Brent-st., Hendon, N.W.
Powney, J. P., Grosvenor House, Tavistock-rd., Croydon.
Preston, H., 68, Forest-rd., Burton-on-Trent.
Prodham, V. H., 13, Belle Vue-rd., Ealing, W.
Quilty, D., 12, Chandos-rd., East Finchley, N.
Rowlands, F., 51, Aubrey-st., Liverpool.
Read, C. H., 49, Lyndhurst Drive, Leyton, N.E.
Reading, B. J., 21, Casella-rd., New Cross.
Richards, F., 72, Wells-rd., Nottingham.
Richards, A. G., 28, High st., Hythe, Kent.
Richards, J. H., 90, Rodenhurst-rd., Clapham Park, S.W.
Rickards, A. C., Amberley-ave., Croydon.
Rintoul, Jane, 18, Forth-st., Edinburgh.
Roper, H. N., Beechworth, Havant.
Rozant, Ina, Actors' Association, 32, Regent-st., S.W.
Sambrook, Mrs. L., 25, Conway-rd., Leicester
Scott, D. J., 207, Ella-st., Hull.
Serroll, H., 58, Enfield-ter., Leicester Causeway, Coventry.
Sharp, Miss M., 32, Gwilym-st., Rhydfelen, Pontypridd, Glam.
Sharpe, A. A., 23, Sincil-st., Lincoln.
Shipley, W., R.H.M. School, Phœnix Park, Dublin.
Smith, W. J., "Strathmore," 9, Roseleigh-ave., Burnage, Manchester.
Spence, C. H., The Peth, Durham.
Spencer, W. E., 45, Marston-st., Oxford.
Standfast, Mrs., The Mill House, Bickton, Fordingbridge, Hants.
Stephens, W. T., 10, Abbeyfield-rd., Rotherhithe, S.E.
Stewart, P., 219, Felsham-rd., Putney, S.W.
Stoodley, E. A., 7, Kingston-rd., Oxford.
Stubbington, W. H., Caretaker, Shoreditch Public Library, Pitfield-st., Hoxton.
Suttin, C. J., Junr., "Eaglehurst," Hatfield-rd., Torquay.
Tappenden, W., 6, Roper-st., Eltham.
Taylor, E. R., 3, Bembridge-st., Brighton.
Tilley, H., Caretaker, Council School, Whitstable.
Titmas, A. J., 195, Marsland-rd., Brooklands, Cheshire.
Toye, G. H., 54, Linwood-rd., Handsworth, Birmingham.
Tracy, A. W., 23, Idlecombe-rd., Tooting, S.W.
Tranter, E. C., Wingfield-rd., Trowbridge.
Troakes, W., 36, Christchurch-rd., Newport, Mon.
Trow, Mrs., Brook Cottage, Newdigate, Surrey.
Upstone, Mrs. A., Vicarage-ave, Derby.
Vaughan, Mrs., 21, West Southernhay, Exeter.
Walmsley, J., Powis Place, Oswestry.
Whitby, E., 54, Ramsden-st., Ladywood, Birmingham.
Wilkinson, E. G., Band, 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers, New Barracks, Gosport.
Williams, E., 168, Keighley-rd., Colne, Lancs.
Williamson, E., Oak-lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire.
Willis, F. R., Whelford, Langdon-rd., Cheltenham.
Wilson, A., Distington, Workington, Cumberland.
Wolfe, W. P., Waterside, Shaldon, South Devon.
Yerby, Miss A., 5, Dowsett-ave., Southend-on-Sea.
Young, J., Milford House, Hazel Bank, Neyland, Pembrokeshire.

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Racing Notes.

Owing to the holiday season we are compelled to go to press with these notes before the decision of the holiday meetings, and the results of those may consequently have their effect on the selections given for subsequent races. The Lincolnshire market points strongly to the chance of Long Set, as on Wednesday last Mr. S. B. Joel's candidate was backed to win something like £15,000. Should all go well with him in the interval,

Long Set

should start a good favourite for the race and win it into the bargain.

Prophetic.

Leicester, Catterick Bridge, and Alexandra Park are the remaining fixtures for this week, the Muswell Hill venue being allotted the last two days of the week. At Leicester to-day (Wednesday), Sir Josh is fit and well for the Billesden Plate, and is the likely winner. The Bottesford Welter should go to Sir Oracle. On Thursday, Mediator goes for the Wigston Plate, and though he has a big weight he is so fit and well in himself that he will make a bold bid for victory. Pretty Bold may have been seen out before, but if he is reserved for the Leicestershire Handicap he will be worth backing. He is a certain winner in the early days of the season.

At Catterick Bridge, St. Neots is thought likely to win the Borough Hall Welter Handicap on Thursday; whilst Ormette, fit and well, would have no difficulty in taking the New Stand Handicap on the previous day.

At Alexandra Park, on Friday, Teegue of the Lee will most likely win the Three-Year-Old Handicap; Forward III. the County Handicap; and Mordkin the Middlesex Plate. On Saturday, the Grove Welter should go to Bobbin II.; the Alexandra Handicap to Magical Maid; and the Maiden Three-Year-Old Plate to Teegue of the Lee.

THE "JOHN BULL" DERBY SWEEP.

Not the least satisfactory feature of the establishment of the John Bull Derby Sweepstake is the general stampede of the "crooks" which has followed its announcement. They realise that their day is practically over, and that with the opportunity now afforded to the public for investment in a *bona-fide* undertaking, specious circulars are no longer likely to bring birds to their nets. The Editor of "John Bull" is now proceeding to Geneva for the purpose of making himself personally acquainted with the details of the organisation, and particularly to examine arrangements in connection with the Draw, the lodgement in the Bank of the full amount of the prize money, the provision of the £1,000 for charities, and other matters; and his report will appear next week. Meanwhile all communications, as we have before announced, *must* be addressed not to us, but to Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Geneva, Switzerland.

BOUVERET TURF CLUB SWEEPS.

We have received a large number of enquiries in reference to the Grand National and Derby Sweeps being run by this "Club," and we have to repeat our warning to readers not to be misled by the specious wording of the circulars now being distributed broadcast. There is, of course, not the remotest possibility of anything like £100,000 being distributed in prizes in connection with either Sweep, and those who have subscribed to the Grand National will soon be disillusioned. We shall watch the developments with interest. By the way, we notice that the Draw for the Grand National is to take place on April 1st—which seems an appropriate date in all the circumstances—but we are not informed as to in whose presence it will be conducted. To say "All are invited" is mere claptrap.

SPORTING REPLIES.

The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith

F. Field and Co. (65, Long Acre).—F. F. (London).—The person who carries on business under the name of F. Field and Co. is a man named Lichtfeld, about whom we have received several complaints in regard to non-payment of accounts, which he has admitted to us are due from him. We would call the attention of the National Sporting League to the fact that this man claims to be a member of that association, and we shall be happy to place before the Committee the facts in our possession.

"John Bull" Derby Sweep.—Lesser Stour.—2s. 6d. will cover everything.——H. W. (Alexandria), A. T. (Greenock), G. P. (Huddersfield).—Mr. Patrick O'Brien is not undertaking sweeps on the Grand National or Lincolnshire.——J. T. N. (Haverstock Hill).—As we stated in reply to a correspondent last week, you may ignore the initial noughts on the tickets and counterfoils.——F. F. H. (Hertford), J. J. E. (Neyland), E. R. (Bristol), W. T. (Putney), Auld Reekie.—You can use a *nom-de-plume*.——E. W. M. (Liverpool). English postal orders or crossed cheque will do.——T. W. W. (Hull).—The £1,000 for charities will be distributed under our personal supervision, and we can assure our readers that every penny of it will be well spent.——W. B. (Richmond).—No one has any right to use the name of John Bull in connection with any sweepstake other than Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Geneva, Switzerland.

H. Diamond (Lucerne).—A. G. (Maidenhead).—Obviously a mistake in printing, and if you call Mr. Diamond's attention to it, we feel sure he will do what is right.

FOOTBALL SELECTIONS.

		Last season's Result.
	Cup Semi-Finals.	
Sunderland	v. *Burnley*.	—
Oldham	v. Aston Villa.	—
	League I.	
Bolton W.	v. *Notts C.*	Bolton won, 3—0.
Bradford C.	v. *Everton*	Bradford won, 1—0
Chelsea	v. Blackburn R.	No game.
Liverpool	v. *Manchester U.*	Liverpool won, 3—2.
Manchester C.	v. *W. Bromwich A.*	W. Bromwich won, 2—0.
Newcastle	v. *Spurs.*	Newcastle won, 2—0.
Sheffield U.	v. *Middlesbro'*	Draw, 1—1.
Woolwich A.	v. Sheffield W.	Sheffield won, 2—0.
	League II.	
Bristol C.	v. Birmingham	Bristol won, 2—1.
Clapton O.	v *Grimsby*	Clapton O. won, 1—0.
Glossop	v. Bury	No game.
Hull C.	v. *Fulham*	Fulham won, 3—2.
Leicester F.	v. *Blackpool*	Leicester won, 4—0.
Lincoln	v. *Leeds City*.	No game.
Notts F.	v. *Huddersfield*.	Notts F. won, 3—0.
Stockport	v. Wolverh'mpton.	Wolves won, 2—1.
	Southern League.	
Watford	v. *Gillingham*	Gillingham won, 1—0.
Coventry	v. Northampton	Northampton won, 2—1.
Brighton	v. *Q. P. Rangers*	Brighton won, 3—1.
West Ham	v. *Brentford*	West Ham won, 7—1.
Exeter C.	v. *Millwall*	Exeter won, 3—1.
Portsmouth	v. *Bristol R.*	No game.
Swindon	v. *Stoke*	Swindon won, 3—0.
Merthyr	v. *Norwich*	No game.
C. Palace	v. *Reading*	Draw, 1—1.
Plymouth	v. *Southampton*	Plymouth won, 1—0.

Note.—The losing teams are printed in *italics*.

OUR FOOTBALL TABLE.

Owing to our going to press early this week, in consequence of the Easter Holidays, we are unable to publish our usual table of Football selections.

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